

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2020

GEOGRAPHY 534 Geographies of Food

GFC HOURS (3S-0)

Section	Days	Time	Location
SEM 01	Th	17:00 – 19:45	ES 342

Instructor: Dr. Marit Rosol	Office: ES 446
Office Hour: Thursdays, 2-3 pm (during term) and by appointment	Email: marit.rosol@ucalgary.ca

Please note: The emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description

Explores geographies of food on different scales -- from the global to the local -- with an emphasis on links between urban and rural contexts. By applying diverse perspectives (ecology, economy, equity, culture, policy, politics, gender, justice etc.) and normative concepts such as food sovereignty, we learn about the current globalized industrial agri-food regime as well as alternative and sustainable food systems.

Course Objectives

The course emphasizes that food is inherently geographical, that is, all food is produced and consumed somewhere. Geographical insights on food issues centre on food production and consumption as they vary across space, in place, and at scales of human-environment interaction, from the personal to the global. Geographical thinking is thus critical to understanding food in all its dimensions. At the same time, the study of food offers important insights into a wide range of pressing questions in geography.

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce students to different ways of understanding, theorizing and researching the changing geographies of food, the evolution of geographical food studies, its main topics and its relevance for understanding current processes. Through intensive readings and discussions of important theory and case study articles and book chapters, we will:

- learn about key concepts and basic terminology related to the geographies of food;
- discuss current issues and challenges of our current food system on different scales – from the global to the local – related to production, processing and distribution, consumption and waste management, policy and regulation;
- examine the history and political economy of the modern food system;
- explore ways to create alternative, more democratic, equitable, sustainable as well as economically viable food systems.

The course consists mainly in reading, presenting and discussing relevant theory and case study articles on the Geographies of Food. Students will present on one course related topic of their choosing. As an advanced seminar, this is a reading, research and writing-intensive class that requires active participation by students.

This course welcomes interested graduate students from related disciplines, pending consent by instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
- Be able to paraphrase, summarize, explain and discuss key texts and concepts of the relevant literature, develop familiarity with the academic literature in food studies and geographies of food	1, 2, 8	3
- Gain an awareness of the changing ways in which food is produced, processed, distributed, marketed, sold, consumed and wasted. Develop critical understanding of some of the key political, economic, social, environmental and health challenges of our current food systems, from the global to the local scale. Learn about key policy, market-oriented, and civil society responses to these challenges.	1,4,5,7	2-3
- Employ knowledge in classroom discussion, present and support arguments with help of the literature discussed in class	1,4,5,7	2-3
- Work in teams and collaborate to present findings in class	1,4,5,7	2-3
- Choose a course related topic in order to investigate one or more of the important tensions and conflicts we face in our food system today, or ways to overcome them. Identify a problem and a relevant research-question in regard to the term paper. Carry out research on their topic based on literature, documents and other secondary sources. Analyze the topic based on a critical evaluation of the discussed literature and independent literature search and review	2, 3, 4, 5, 8	2-3
- Effectively communicate findings in class through an oral presentation and in writing through a term paper	1, 2, 5, 7, 8	3
- Generally acquire and enhance a set of analytical skills including active listening and reading, note-taking, researching, presenting and supporting arguments orally and in writing, academic writing skills, critical thinking	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8	3

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills.*

***Levels: 1 = Introductory, 2 = Intermediate, and 3 = Advanced.*

Prerequisites: 3 units from Geography 341, 351, 361, 365, 452, 454, 456 458.

Learning Resources

Key reading (*required*)

Winson, Anthony/Jennifer Sumner/Mustafa Koç (2017): Critical perspectives in food studies. Don Mills, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press. (Please only use 2nd / 2017 edition)

Further weekly readings will be announced in class, links to some of the supplemental readings will be posted on D2L. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>

Students are expected to read all assigned readings and to do independent literature search in regard to their individual presentation topic.

Grading (Weighting)

1. Participation in weekly discussion of readings and lecture (25%) (individual)
2. Weekly response papers (25%) (individual)
3. Class presentation on course-related topic (25%) (group)
4. Seminar paper on presentation topic (25%) (individual or group)

You must earn a D or more on the assignments, and presentations in this course in order to pass.

It is essential to pass all components to pass the course as a whole.

For fairness reasons, assignment grades will not be posted until all students have submitted the particular assignment. However, you will always have the opportunity to talk to the instructor about your course progress.

There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in this course.

Late Policy

- Assignments turned in up to 24 hours late will be penalized by deducting one partial letter grade (e.g. from B+ to B)
- Assignments turned in between 24 and 48 hours late will be penalized by one full letter grade (e.g. B+ to C+)
- Assignments turned in between 48 and 72 hours late will be penalized 2 full letter grades (e.g. B+ to D+)
- Assignments more than 72 hours late will not be accepted.

Extensions for assignments must be requested well in advance of their due date together with the proposal for an alternative course of action. It will be granted at the sole discretion of the instructor and only in exceptional circumstances.

Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations

N/A

Grading System

Grade	Percentage	Verbal description (for information only)
A+	96 – 100	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95,99	Excellent performance
A-	86 – 89,99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	81 – 85,99	Exceeding good performance
B	77 – 80,99	Good performance
B-	71 – 76,99	Approaching good performance
C+	65 – 70,99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	62 – 64,99	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 61,99	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	55 – 58,99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54,99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	< 50	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Supplementary Fees

N/A

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Principles of Conduct

The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Human subjects

No research on human subjects will take place.

Internet and electronic communication device information

There is no restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor. **Phones must be turned off during class**, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar.

The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: david.goldblum@ucalgary.ca).

Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus, including the LRT station, parking lots, bus zones, and university residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.