

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2021

GEOGRAPHY 534

Geographies of Food GFC HOURS (3S-0)

Section	Location	Meeting Time	Meeting Day
SEM 01	Web Based Course	17:00 – 19:45	Th

Instructor: Dr. Marit Rosol	
Office Hour (web-based, Microsoft Teams): Thursdays, 2-3 pm (Jan 14 th to April 15 th) and by appointment	Email: marit.rosol@ucalgary.ca
Teaching Assistant: Abby Landon	Email: abby.landon1@ucalgary.ca
Office Hour (web-based, Zoom): Tuesdays, 10-11am (Jan 12 th to April 13 th) and by appointment	

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 readings (*required, ebooks are accepted*)

Holt-Giménez, Eric (2018) *Can We Feed the World Without Destroying It?* Cambridge, UK: Polity.

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.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Broadband internet connection

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.

 *Note that assignments will be explained in detail in the first session on January 14th, also presentation groups will be formed in the first session already. Hence, it is crucial that you attend the first session. If you are unable to attend, you need to get in touch with the instructor immediately to receive further instructions.*

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 (if applicable)

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.

Exams

N/A

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: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at class times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

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.

Emails, texting, and other activities that distract attention are to be avoided.

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 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:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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).

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.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, suypaca@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.