

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Global Development Studies**

**DEST 402: Winter 2022
Global Food Politics
Tue/Thur 9:30 AM-10:45 AM
SA 109**

Instructor: Dr. Ben McKay

Email: ben.mckay@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: 11:00am-12:00pm Tues/Thur or by appointment¹

TA: Nathaneal Cannon

Email: nathaneal.cannon1@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: TBA

Prerequisites

DEST 393

Course description

One billion people suffer from chronic hunger, while another two billion are overweight and obese. The dominant global food system, which produces enough to feed nearly 9.5 billion people is failing humanity. This course examines the politics of the global food system and its implications for rural livelihoods, food security and accessibility, and ecological change. Students will gain an understanding of how and why industrial agriculture has become the dominant model of agro-food production; the influence of corporations in the food system; the role of international trade in food and agriculture; and how finance has become a new tool for powerful actors to gain influence and shape the world food economy.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students should:

- understand and think critically about our global food system
- have a general understanding of the emergence of industrial agriculture and the role of corporations in the food system
- be equipped with an understanding of the roles and relationships between governments, private enterprise and forms of governance in the food economy
- have improved their writing, reading, research and analytical skills
- have improved their ability to engage in constructive criticism

Learning methods:

This course combines (a) lectures, (b) student-led discussion and presentations, (c) video and films, (d) student-led peer review exercises, (e) in-class exercises, (f) writing assignments, and (g) exams.

Learning Resources

Required textbook (available at the University of Calgary bookstore):

Koç, Mustafa, Jennifer Sumner, Anthony Winson. (2021). *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

¹ Office hours may vary, so students are encouraged to make an appointment.

All other required course readings are available online via the University of Calgary library <https://library.ucalgary.ca> and/or available via D2L.

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 updates web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

Methods of assessment

1- In-class assignments: 10%

A total of five in-class assignments will be held throughout the semester, each worth 2% of your final grade. These will be based on the required readings assigned for that week, so make sure you come to class prepared and having done the required readings.

2- Film Review: 15%

Students will write a 500-750 word (excluding bibliography) film review. Due March 29th (upload to D2L before midnight).

3- Mid-term Exam #1, February 17th: 25%

Short answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings up to and including February 15th will be covered. This midterm is open book and online via D2L. You will have the entire class time + 50% extra time to complete the online midterm exam. The midterm will be available to start on February 17th at 9:30am and will close February 18th at 9:30am. Students have the option to start a test or timed assessment at a time that best suits their situation within a 24-hour time period. Just remember that regardless of when you start the exam, you must finish within the allotted time period (75 min + 38 min + 7 minutes for breaks = 120 min) and complete the exam before February 18th at 9:30am.

4- Mid-term Exam #2, April 12th: 15%

Short answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings between March 1st and April 2nd (inclusive) will be covered.

5- Group Presentation, March 10th – 24th: 20%

Students will be organized into groups and present on a topic of choice approved by the instructor. All group members will receive the same grade based on a grading rubric which will be posted on D2L. More details will be discussed in class.

6- Short Essay based on group presentation topic: 15%

Each individual will write a short essay (800-1000 words, excluding bibliography) based on the topic of their group presentation. Due March 24th (upload to D2L by midnight).

- There is no final examination for this course.

- Midterm Exam #1 is online and open book
- Midterm Exam #2 is in class and closed book, unless otherwise indicated
- ~~All exams are in class and 'closed book'.~~
- It is **not** essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole.
- Late assignments will be penalized by 10% per day.

MISSED EXAMS OR ASSESSMENTS

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see ucalgary.ca/registrar.

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

For referencing style, use Chicago author-date. For instructions see:

https://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/reference/tf_ChicagoAD.pdf

The final mark out of 100, will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
B+	80– 84.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	F	< 50%

Supplementary Fees

Not applicable

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

Class Schedule*

*Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

	Tues	Required Readings	Thurs	Required Readings
1	11-Jan	Introduction to the course Read the course outline	13-Jan	Food studies and food culture Koç, Sumner and Winson (2021) Introduction, Ch.1 & 2
2	18-Jan	Food and intersectionality Koç, Sumner and Winson (2021) Introduction, Ch.6 & 7	20-Jan	The rise of a global industrial food market Koç, Sumner and Winson (2021) Introduction, Ch.8 & 9
3	25-Jan	World food economy Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Unpacking the World Food Economy". <i>Food</i> . Chapter 1.	27-Jan	Global industrial food market Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "The Rise of a Global Industrial Food Market." <i>Food</i> . Chapter 2. *In-class assignment*
4	1-Feb	Food trade Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Agricultural Trade Liberalization." <i>Food</i> . Chapter 3.	3-Feb	Corporate control Clapp, Jennifer. 2016. "Transnational Corporations." <i>Food</i> . Chapter 4.
5	8-Feb	Insecurity and crisis Koç et al. (2022) Ch. 11 & 14	10-Feb	Intensive livestock and fisheries Koç et al. (2022) Ch. 12 & 13 *In-class assignment*
6	15-Feb	Midterm Review	17-Feb	Midterm #1
7	22-Feb	Reading week	24-Feb	
8	1-Mar	Film Screening In Defense of Food Documentary (1 hr. 57 minutes)	3-Mar	Film Screening In Defense of Food Documentary (1 hr. 57 minutes)
9	8-Mar	The challenge of informed eating and GMOs Koç et al. (2022) Ch. 16 & 17 *In-class assignment*	10-Mar	Global food crisis and the social costs of cheap food Koç et al. (2022) Ch. 18 & 19 Group presentation
10	15-Mar	Group presentations	17-Mar	Group presentations
11	22-Mar	Group presentations	24-Mar	Group presentations Short essay based on group presentation due. Upload to D2L by midnight.
12	29-Mar	Koç et al. (2022) Ch. 15 & 25 Film review due. Upload to D2L by midnight.	31-Mar	Altieri, A. A. and C.I. Nicholls. 2020. 'Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture', <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> , https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2020.1782891 *In-class assignment*
13	5-Apr	Anderson et al. (2019) From transition to domains of	7-Apr	Midterm Review

		transformation: getting to sustainable and just food systems through agroecology, <i>Sustainability</i> 11, no. 19: 5272. https://doi.org/10.3390/su11195272 *In-class assignment*		
14	12-Apr	MIDTERM #2		

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

“Academic Misconduct” includes such things as cheating, falsification, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Further support on academic integrity is available at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students’ assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies->

[procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy](#)) 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 unauthorized 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 Policy.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. I would also like to note that the University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.