

**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 364: Food and Society**

**Winter Semester 2018**

Dr. John Phyne  
Annex 110A

Class Times: Tuesday: 2:15 to 3:15 PM; Thursday: 2:15 to 3:15 PM  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM; Thursday: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM;  
Friday: 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, or by appointment.

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**Course Rules:** In order to have a productive semester, the following rules will be used. If you do not want to abide by these rules, drop this course as soon as possible:

1. Turn off all cell phones at the commencement of class. If you use a cell phone in class, I will ask you to turn it off. If you refuse, I will end the class and report the matter to the Dean of Arts. Cell phone usage in class is a disrespectful and disruptive act that I no longer tolerate. My lectures are not on your cell phone.
2. Laptops are not permitted. These devices are also disruptive to the classroom environment.
3. There are no extra assignments or tests: If you perform below your expectations, it is your responsibility to contact me for assistance. I will not provide extra assignments or tests. Furthermore, if you perform below your expectations, do not wait until the last two weeks of class to contact me.
4. Your grade is your unit of concern: It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade. *I will not e-mail test results or calculate your grades for you.* Come to class and collect your tests.
5. The Academic Integrity Policy may be found at: [http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity). Students do not need to be caught USING a device like a smart phone during a test or exam to be in violation of the policy. Simply having the unauthorized device on their person during the test or exam is a violation of the policy.
6. E-mail Policy: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. These include extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone are be used to cover materials pertaining to the course.

## Course Description

This course explores the linkages among food production, distribution and consumption within the changing global political economy. Consideration is given to these issues within the Global North and Global South. We also consider the historical and contemporary linkages between the Global North and South. These linkages are also assessed through an examination of food policy issues (health, safety, security, and sustainability).

The course is divided into five sections. First, we briefly trace the connection between food and social organization over time by examining paleolithic, neolithic and industrial forms of food production. Here, the emphasis is on the linkage between shifting patterns of food production and the emergence of social inequality in human societies (Two Classes).

The second section covers the social organization of local and global food production, distribution and consumption. Emphasis is given to the social and ecological consequences of global food production and consumption patterns. We deal with the consequences of the 'liberalisation' of trade in food products for food producers and consumers. Attention is also given to the role of culture and gender in food consumption practices. The conceptual apparatus introduced here is the basis for the consideration of material in the rest of the course (Four Classes).

*Section Three* emphasizes the social organisation of food production and consumption in the Global North. Much of the period since the end of WWII was characterised by state intervention in order to maximize food production. Policies endeavoured to link production to consumption. This is referred to as the Fordist food regime. Case studies of the Fordist regime and the gradual decline of this regime include: the Canadian Wheat Board and supply management in Canadian dairy production. We also cover the roots of 'permanent' migrant labour in Canada's seasonal fruit and vegetable sectors, and the emergence of immigrant labour in the restructured beef-processing sector (Six Classes).

*Section Four* emphasizes the social reorganisation of agricultural production in countries in the South and the linkages of this with Northern consumption practices. This 'Post Fordist' period arguably began in the late 1970s, but accelerated in the 1990s. It consists of a growing emphasis on 'free markets' in the sourcing of agricultural products. This process was engineered by Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) in the revision of lending practices from Northern to Southern countries, and is stressed in the recent policy provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This growing liberalisation of trade in food products coupled with the rise in agro-export industries in the South has resulted in changing patterns in the relationships between producers and consumers. Food is now sourced from a wider variety of places in the Global South. Here, we examine trade liberalisation and its implications for the rise of 'buyer-driven' food chains for export agriculture in Mexico, Chile and South Africa (Six Classes).

*Section Five* covers selected issues in food policy. The topics covered include: health, safety, security, and sustainability. These will be discussed within a holistic perspective. The 21<sup>st</sup> century increasingly brings forward the need to view food within a wider global perspective. Whether we are ordering food on-line, visiting a local restaurant or even cooking at home, we are usually ‘eating out’. Our food has ‘local’ and ‘global’ linkages that speak to health, safety, security, and sustainability (Five Classes).

### **Textbook**

Mustafa Koç, Jennifer Sumner and Anthony Winson, eds. *Critical Perspectives in Food Studies*. Second Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2012.

### **Evaluation**

- 1) *Test 1*: Thursday, February 1: Two essay questions. This test is worth 25 per cent of your final grade.
- 2) *Test 2*: Thursday, March 8: Two essay questions. This test is worth 25 per cent of your final grade.
- 3) *Research Paper*: Tuesday, Tuesday, March 20: Due in class (not under my door after class). The guidelines are in Moodle. This is worth 20 per cent of your final grade.
- 4) *Final Examination*. Two essay questions. This examination is worth 30 per cent of your final grade

### **Required Readings**

All required readings are either in your textbook or located on the Moodle page for the course (see the asterisk for these readings). While much of this material will be covered in class, you are expected to complete all of these readings for your examinations. Read the material in the order in which you find it. The failure to keep up with your readings will most likely result in a poor grade in this course.

#### *Section One: Paleolithic, Neolithic and Industrial Food Production (Two classes)*

Robert Albritton, “Two Great Food Revolutions: The Domestication of Nature and the Transgression of Nature’s Limits.” In Mustafa Koç, et al. pp. 108-117.

#### *Section Two: Political Economy, Culture and Gender: Perspectives in Food Studies (Four classes)*

Mustafa Koç, Margaret Bancarz and Kelsey Speakman, “The Interdisciplinary Field of Food Studies.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 3-18.

Harriet Friedmann, "Changing Food Systems from the Top to Bottom: Political Economy and Social Movements Perspectives." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 19-33.

Tony Weiss, "A Political Ecology Approach to Industrial Food Production." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 118-34.

Jose Johnston and Sarah Cappeliez, "You Are What You Eat: Enjoying (and Transforming) Food Culture." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 81-94.

Jennifer Brady, and Elaine Power, Michelle Szabo and Jacqui Gingras, "Still Hungry for a Feminist Food Studies." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 81-94.

*Section Three: Fordist and Post-Fordist Food Chains: The Global North (Six Classes)*

Nettie Wiebe, "Crisis in the Food System: The Farm Crisis." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds, pp. 138-153.

Kerry Prebisch, "Local Produce, Foreign Labor: Labor Mobility Programs and Global Trade Competitiveness in Canada." *Rural Sociology* 72(3), 2007, pp. 418-449.\*

Shannon Kornelson, "The Welfare of Farm Animals on Intensive Livestock Operations (ILO) in Canada." In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds, pp. 155-68.

Michael Broadway, "Meatpacking and the Transformation of Rural Communities: A Comparison of Brooks, Alberta, and Garden City, Kansas." *Rural Sociology* 72 (4), 2007, pp. 560-582.\*

*Section Four: Post-Fordist Food Chains: The Global South (Six Classes)*

Antonio Avalos and Eduardo Graillet, "Corn and Mexican Agriculture: What Went Wrong?" *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. 72(1), January, 2013, pp.145-78.\*

Bradford L. Barham, Mercedes Callenes, Seth Gitter, Jessa Lewis and Jeremy Weber, "Fair Trade/Organic Coffee, Rural Livelihoods, and the "Agrarian Question": Southern Mexican Coffee Families in Transition." *World Development*, 39(1), 2011, pp. 134-145.\*

José Bengoa, "Rural Chile Transformed: Lights and Shadows." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 13(4), October 2013, pp. 466–487.

Carmen Bain, "Governing the Global Value Chain: GLOBALGAP and the Chilean Fresh Fruit Industry." *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture & Food*, 17 (1), 2010, pp. 1-23.\*

Eduarado Ramialrez and Ruerd Ruben, "Gender Systems and Women's Labor Force Participation in the Salmon Industry in Chiloe, Chile." *World Development*, 73, 2015, pp.

96-104.\*

Stephanie Ware Barrientos (2013) “‘Labour Chains’: Analysing the Role of Labour Contractors in Global Production Networks.” *The Journal of Development Studies*, 49 (8), pp. 1058-1071.\*

*Section Five: Health and Safety, Food Security and Sustainability (Five Classes)*

Health and Safety

Jacqui Gingras, Yuka Asada, Jennifer Brady and Lucy Aphramor, “Critical Dietics: Challenging the Profession From Within.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 93-107.

Brenda L. Beagan and Gwen E. Chapman, “Constructing ‘Healthy Eating’/Constructing Self.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 64-78.

Anthony Winson, “Spatial Colonization of Food Environments by Pseudo-Food Companies.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 185- 204.

Debbie Martin and Margaret Amos, “What Constitutes Good Food? Toward a Critical Indigenous Perspective.” In In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 205-20.

Food Security

Matias E. Margulis and Jessica Duncan, “Global Food Security Governance: Key Actors, Issues and Dynamics.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds. pp. 270-85.

Naomi Dachner and Valerie Tarasuk, “Origins and Consequences of and Responses to Food Insecurity in Canada.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 221-36.

Melanie Bedore, “Geographies of Capital Formation and Rescaling: A Historical Geographical Approach to the Food Desert Problem.” *The Canadian Geographer*, 57(2), 2013, pp. 133-53.\*

E. Ann Clark, “Questioning the Assumptions of Genetically Modified Crops in Canada.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 253-69

Aparna Sundar, “The Food System in the Fisheries: Crisis and Alternatives.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 169-84.

Sustainability and the Future of Food

Jennifer Sumner, “Conceptualizing Sustainable Food Systems.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds. , pp. 320-31.

Charles Z. Levkoe, “Alternative Food Initiatives, Food Movements, and Collaborative

Networks: A Pan-Canadian Perspective.” In In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 348-62.

Annette Auréile Desmarais, “Building Food Sovereignty: A Radical Framework for Socially Just and Ecologically Sustainable Food Systems.” In Mustafa Koç, et al., eds., pp. 363-79.