

Carleton University  
Fall 2015  
Department of Political Science

**PSCI 3609 A**  
**Global Politics of Food**  
Tuesdays 8:25am to 11:25am  
Location: Please confirm on Carleton Central

**Instructor:** Chantal Clément  
**Office:** B641 Loeb  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30-2:30; Thursday 2:30-4:30  
**Email:** chantal\_clement@carleton.ca  
**TA:** TBA

**Course Background**

Food is central to our daily lives, yet it is often only considered of peripheral interest to the study of politics. This course seeks to challenge some of our assumptions about both politics and what we eat by placing food's production, distribution, and consumption at the centre of our scrutiny. Food is part of a contentious realm of politics, in which policy-makers, economists, environmentalists, agribusinesses, scientists, consumers, and social justice groups –all holding vastly different views– seek to influence the food system and related policies.

We will examine the interrelation between the production and consumption of food through significant “Political” events of history. At the same time, this course also explores the “small p” politics of food – the political economy of food and agriculture. If the study of politics is ultimately about analyzing relations of power, the way our food systems work offer important insights into the power dynamics of the early 21st century, including relations between global North and South, among men and women, and between people and the natural world. It is through understanding food that we will also explore some of the major global challenges of our time including: the financialization of the economy, the politics of climate change and migration, and tensions between democratization and the concentration of power. We will also look at the origins and impacts of social movements for sustainable agriculture, animal welfare, fair trade, food security and food sovereignty, as well as engaging in debate about the merits of these movements' policy positions.

At a practical level, this course is about developing a clear understanding of the role of public policy at the political economy as it relates to health, agriculture, international trade, and the environment at multiple levels, from local governments to global governance. Finally, this course will help students build their skill sets in academic research, presenting policy briefs, academic debate, and group work.

**Required Course Texts**

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Food. Polity Press (available at Haven Books: <http://www.havenbooks.ca/carletonsite/carletonhome-e.php> or Amazon)

- All other readings are found in journals available through the Carleton Library web page, CU Learn, or the links provided below.

### **Structure for weekly classes and class process (except first and last class)**

- Lecture: 8:25-10:25am
- Seminar Group Discussion: 10:25-11:25am

To ensure engagement in the learning process, this course will expose students to ideas using different formats beyond readings and lectures; these will include videos, real world experience, and guest speakers. I encourage you to engage with course material through reflective writing, class discussion, and through your research projects. I welcome your participation, comments, and questions to contribute to a more valuable and interesting experience for all.

### **Written Assignment Environmental Policy**

In the interest of minimizing paper use, I encourage you to print your essays **double-sided or on re-used paper** (e.g. paper that has already been used on one side) and not to include a full cover page. Simply put the details (name, title, course #, word count, etc.) at the top of your first page of text. Essays should still be double-spaced in a size 12 font to allow for written feedback.

### **Requirements & Evaluation**

- 1) Attendance, participation, & seminar discussion: 20%
- 2) Oral group presentation and written report (due on day of presentation) 20%
- 3) Major Research Essay (**Due November 10; paper topics due Oct. 6**): 30%
- 4) Final Exam (during Final Exam Period): 30%

#### **1) Attendance & Participation:**

Attendance is required to understand the course and receive high marks on the final exam. 25% of your participation grade will be based on attendance in weekly class. More than one absence will only be excused if you can provide suitable documentation (e.g. doctor's note).

The other 75% is based on the quality of your contributions to seminar discussions. Each student should be prepared to contribute or respond to each week's readings or videos during group discussions. Your responses should present your own analysis and insights from the readings, and can include one or more of the following: Did you understand the article(s)? Did you agree or disagree with the author's arguments? What did you learn or what surprised you? Identify one or more questions the readings raised for you—that confused you or that you would like to know more about. Where possible, identify links between the issues raised in the current week's readings with other readings or topics in this course.

The primary purpose for prepared responses is to kick-start discussions and to identify issues that need further elaboration. They should also demonstrate that you have a working knowledge of the central arguments of the readings for that week. These discussions will require you to provide knowledge obtained from your weekly readings, so if these required readings are not completed each week, it will affect your grade.

## 2) Research Essay Expectations:

You are expected to write one major research essay about an issue related to the politics of food. Your topic area must differ from the topic of your group presentation. Your objective is to advance a specific argument or analysis that interprets important events or trends related to the politics of food, either recent or in the past. A research essay works to answer a specific question through a thesis statement or question, defended through supported evidence. The academic articles from our reading list are a good place to identify arguments or analytical frames.

Please email your proposed topic to me by **October 6th**, stating your thesis question and what major topic you will be researching. Your essay should begin with a clear introduction of your thesis statement and an outline of the main parts of your argument.

Citations must follow a consistent citation. Essays will be graded based on a variety of factors, including strength of argument, depth of research, your ability to engage with your concepts, organization, writing style, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The essay should be 2500-3000 words in length (or 10-12 pages, double-spaced) and refer to at least eight academic sources. (If you are unsure as to what qualifies as an academic source please consult an academic style guide). I expect to see depth of analysis, theoretical sophistication and overall knowledge of the issue throughout your research paper.

The essays are due at the start of lecture on the due date. Late papers (only) may be submitted to the Political Science department's mail box in 640 Loeb and will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day (e.g. a B paper handed in two days late would be reduced to a C+). Retain a copy of all written assignments.

## 3) Group Presentation - Policy Recommendation Briefing:

In the seminar portion of the class, students will be giving presentations beginning in week 4 (in groups of 3, with others in your seminar). Presentations will take the form of a verbal policy recommendation "briefing" on a current (or recent) issue in food politics. Your goal is to present your issue from the perspective of a certain group *to a specific audience*. In your oral brief, you will present: 1) the origins of the controversy and its current status (background), 2) its implications (key considerations), and 3) specific recommendations for your targeted audience. It is important to be clear about the audience of your briefing as it will affect your arguments. Groups are encouraged to use powerpoint or prezis (or similar) to organize the material. Some useful references:

- How to Write a Briefing Note. Public Administration. University of Victoria.  
<http://web.uvic.ca/~sdoyle/E302/Notes/WritingBriefingNotes.html>
- Lewis, Alison. 2012. Use and Abuse of PowerPoint - the good, the bad, and the ugly  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsslhdkSRXM>
- The 10 best prezis of 2012. <http://blog.prezi.com/latest/2012/12/28/the-10-best-prezis-of-2012-scroll-down-for-the-latest-select.html>

You will also be asked to submit a written 1 page brief of your presentation, to be submitted to your instructor at the beginning of your presentation.

You are also encouraged to be creative in how you present. Presentations will normally take place during the first part of your group seminars. Each group should ensure that they remain within their allotted total of 15 minutes. Your presentation will be followed by time for questions from your instructor and other students (approx. minutes). Note that plagiarism also applies to presentations, so please ensure that all of the information you draw from elsewhere is sourced, and that your group constructs its own analysis of the controversy.

75% of your presentation grade will be given a “group” grade based on an assessment of the presentation you give, the other 25% will be based on your individual presentation capacity and ability to answer questions. Each group will also be invited to provide feedback on your group’s performance to account for any potential issues or differences there might have been within your group.

Presentation topics will be selected by students through CU Learn and will include:

- **Week 4:** Agricultural or Food Policy Implications of a Trade Agreement on a specific country (e.g. implications of CETA, China-Canada agreement, or WTO)
- **Week 5:** The adoption (or rejection) of GM food crops in Country X
- **Week 6:** Food sovereignty policies or movements in Country X
- **Week 7:** Food aid or agricultural aid in the context of crisis or country X
- **Week 8:** Land Acquisitions in Africa, Asia, etc.
- **Week 9:** Food security (or a particular food issue) in City X
- **Week 10:** Agricultural migrant Workers & Labour Rights
- **Week 11:** Food movement X (e.g. Fair Trade, Organic Food, etc.) and its socio-political or economic effects
- **Week 12:** Issues in “Modern” Food (e.g. fast, food marketing, animal welfare)

#### **4) Final Exam:**

The final exam will be held during the official exam period in December. This cumulative exam will consist in defining key terms and 2 essay questions that will examine your comprehension of all material covered in class.

#### **Class Schedule & Reading Assignments:**

##### **Week 1) September 8**

Politics of Food: An Introduction

##### **Week 2) September 15**

Global Food Security: Making sense of the challenges and unpacking the issues

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Unpacking the World Food Economy. *Food*. 1-23
- Collier, Paul. 2008. The Politics of Hunger. *Foreign Affairs* 87(6): 67-79

##### **Week 3) September 22**

The Political Economy of the global food system 1: Regime Theory

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. The Rise of a Global Industrial Food Market. p.24-56

• Friedmann, Harriett and Philip McMichael. 1989. Agriculture and the State System: The rise and decline of national agricultures, 1870 to the present. *Sociologia Ruralis* 29(2): 93-117

**Week 4) September 29**

The International Politics of Food: Trade Agreements

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Uneven Agricultural Trade Rules. *Food*. p.57-89
- Margulis, Matias E. 2014. Trading Out of the Global Food Crisis? The World Trade Organization and the Geopolitics of Food Security. *Geopolitics* 19(2).
- Oakey, Terrance. 2014. Why Free Trade Agreements Grow Canadian Business. *Huffington post*. March 28, 2014. Available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/terrance-oakey/ceta-canada\\_b\\_5049469.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/terrance-oakey/ceta-canada_b_5049469.html)

**Week 5) October 6 PROPOSED RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE**

The Political Economy of the global food system 2: the case of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

(Brief background: *Just Label It* campaign. The Debate.”

<http://justlabelit.org/about-ge-foods/safety/>)

- Falkner, Robert and Aarti Gupta. May 2009. The limits of regulatory convergence: globalization and GMO politics in the south. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and economic* 9(2): 113-133
- Listen to lecture by Vandana Shiva, “The Future of Food and Seed,” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYwOTLopWIw>
- Listen to lecture by Mark Lynas, at the Oxford Farming Conference, January 2013: <http://vimeo.com/56745320>

**Week 6) October 13**

Social Movement responses: Food Justice and Food Sovereignty

- Massicotte, Marie-Josée. 2010. La Via Campesina, Brazilian Peasants, and the Agribusiness Model of Agriculture: Towards and Alternative Model of Agrarian Democratic Governance. *Studies in Political Economy* 85: 69-98
- Patel, Raj. 2009. What does food sovereignty look like? And Nyéléni Declaration on Food Sovereignty (27 February 2007) *Journal of Peasant Studies* 36(3): 663-676 (**only these pages**)
- Watch Valerie Segrest talk for TEDxRainier 2014. Food Sovereignty. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGkWI7c74oo>

**Week 7) October 20**

Food and Development: International Policy Responses to Hunger

- Diriye, Mukhar, Abdirizak Nur and Abdullahi Khalif. Food Aid and the Challenge for Food Security in Africa. *Development* 56(3): 396-403. Available at: <http://www.palgrave-journals.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/development/journal/v56/n3/full/dev201415a.html>

- Oxfam America. “Enabling Small-Scale Farmers: How U.S. Development Assistance Influences Local Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from Senegal.” Oxfam. June 2013: [http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/oa/files/FeedtheFuture\\_Senegal\\_Brief\\_July13\\_English.pdf](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/oa/files/FeedtheFuture_Senegal_Brief_July13_English.pdf)
- Watch Riz Khan, “Junk Food or Humanitarian Aid?” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j62tvUs\\_YA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j62tvUs_YA)

## October 27 - Reading Week

### Week 8) November 3

#### Food and the Environment: Agriculture & Climate Change Adaptation

- FAO. 2009. Profile for Climate Change. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i1323e/i1323e00.pdf>
- Peter Rossett. March/April 2010. Do we need technology to end hunger? <http://www.iatp.org/documents/lessons-from-the-green-revolution-do-we-need-new-technology-to-end-hunger>

### Week 9) November 10

#### The Role of Local Governments

- Pothukuchi, Kameshwari, and J. L. Kaufman. 1999. Placing the food system on the urban agenda: The role of municipal institutions in food system planning. *Agriculture and Human Values* 16: 213-234.
- Friedmann, Harriet. 2011. Food Sovereignty in the Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario. *Food Sovereignty in Canada*. Wittman, H., A. Demarais, and N. Wiebe. Fernwood: Halifax (pp. 169-189) <http://tfpc.to/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Friedmann-2011-Food-Sovereignty-in-Ontario.pdf>

### Week 10) November 17 **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

#### The debate over ‘Local Food’

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Transnational Corporations. Food. p.90-124
- Shimizu, H. and P. Desrochers. 2008. Policy Primer. Yes We Have No Bananas: A Critique of the Food Mile Perspective. Mercatus Policy Series, Policy Primer No. 8, October. [https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~facilities/documents/YesWeHaveNoBananas\\_CritiqueoftheFoodMilePerspective.pdf](https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~facilities/documents/YesWeHaveNoBananas_CritiqueoftheFoodMilePerspective.pdf)
- Deumling, Diana, Mathis Wackernagel, and Chad Monfreda. 2003. *Eating Up the Earth: How Sustainable Food Systems Shrink Our Ecological Footprint*. Oakland, CA: Redefining Progress. <http://agron-www.agron.iastate.edu/Courses/agron515/eatearth.pdf>

### Week 11) November 24

#### Governing beyond government: 3rd party certifications

- Fair Trade Resource Network. 2007. “What is Fair Trade?” [www.fairtraderesource.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/What-is-Fair-Trade.pdf](http://www.fairtraderesource.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/What-is-Fair-Trade.pdf)

- Jaffee, Daniel. 2012. Weak Coffee: Certification and Co-Optation in the Fair Trade Movement” *Social Problem* 59(1): 94-116.
- Renard, Marie-Christine. 2005. Quality certification, regulation and power in fair trade.” *Journal of Rural Studies* 21: 419-431.

**Week 12)** Dec 1 - The Politics of Meat & Conclusion and Final Exam Recap

- Clapp, Jennifer. 2012. Can the World Food Economy Be Transformed? *Food*: 158-183.
- Delgado, Christopher. 2003. Rising Consumption of Meat and Milk in Developing Countries has Created a New Food Revolution. *Journal of Nutrition* 113.11: 39075-39105. <http://jn.nutrition.org/content/133/11/39075.full>

### **Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if *applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if *applicable*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s)."

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be

12	A+	90-100%	6	C+	67-69%
11	A	85-89%	5	C	63-66%
10	A-	80-84%	4	C-	60-62%
9	B+	77-79%	3	D+	57-59%
8	B	73-76%	2	D	53-56%
7	B-	70-72%	1	D-	50-52%

subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.