



2015-2016
Department of Sociology
SOC2142A – 530
Food and Society
Thursday 4:30pm-6:30pm, BR201

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Office Hours: 6:30pm-7:00pm; By appointment

Course Description

This course explores issues associated with food and contemporary society such as access, production, consumption, marketing, identity, and nutrition.

Course Overview

This course explores key issues and concepts in the emerging area of the sociology of food. It uses the lens of food to explore links between social structures and social meanings. Social structures determine how people grow food, acquire it in market systems, and eat it. Social meanings of food are socially constructed and have immense emotional and cultural significance. We will explore how what we eat and the way we eat it express our social identities (as members of social classes, ethnic groups, religions, etc.); how preparing and consuming food reproduces gender roles; how the economic system for producing and marketing food affects what (and how much) we eat; and how food is both an object of politics (e.g., a target for government regulation) and a subject of politics (e.g., a basis for social movements).

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the requisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enrol in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the social meanings and the structural relations of power regarding the production, distribution, preparation and consumption of food.
2. Apply sociological concepts, theories, methods, and findings to the study of food.
3. Describe the sociological perspective on the structure of a globalized, industrialized agriculture and food system, and the impacts on farmers, consumers, and communities.
4. Identify current responses to social problems regarding food and agriculture.
5. Identify the significance of food in the formation of individual identity.
6. Discuss the various social movements that have developed with a focus on the production and

consumption of food.

7. Assess the ecological implications of the current global food system.
8. Discuss the ethics and politics of food production and consumption.
9. Describe the various interest groups that influence food policy.
10. Critique the social consequences of genetically modified food.

Required Text

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton & Betsy Lucal. (2012). Food and Society: Principles and Paradoxes. Polity Press: Cambridge. ISBN: 978-0-7456-4281-9

Assigned supplemental readings will be posted on Sakai.

Evaluation

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	45%
Commodity Chain Analysis Assignment	20%

Examinations

The exams are cumulative. The exams will be made up of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank and short/long answer questions. You will be tested on materials covered in the textbook, assigned readings, lecture slides and class videos. The midterm each exam is scheduled for 2 hours in length; the final exam is scheduled for 3 hours in length.

Commodity Chain Analysis Assignment

The commodity chain analysis assignment will require students to investigate the source of a product they consume on a daily basis. They will choose a specific product and trace it from source to consumption. This type of project is called “commodity chain analysis,” since it starts with a product (a commodity) and uncovers the chain of events, people, and materials that produced it. The goal of this research project is to uncover the hidden social and environmental relationships behind the products that we consume.

Course Schedule

*FS: Food and Society: Principles and Paradoxes Textbook

*SR: Supplemental Reading Available on Sakai

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept 10	Introduction Why study food?	FS: Chpt. 1
Sept 17	Sociological Perspectives in the Study of Food Analytical Perspectives in the Study of Food	FS: Chpt. 2,3
Sept 24	Diet and Health: Well-being, Disease, Illness and Food	FS: Chpt. 4
Oct 1	Food Industrialization	FS: Chpt. 6
Oct 8	Globalization, World Trade and Economic Development	FS: Chpt 7

Oct 15	Commodity Chains and Consumption	SR: Sakai
Oct 22	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct 29	FALL STUDY BREAK – NO CLASS	
Nov 5	Green Revolution and Agricultural Biotechnology	SR: Sakai
Nov 12	Sustainability: Food and the Environment	SR: Sakai
Nov 19	Food and the Ethics of Eating	FS: Chpt. 5, 8
Nov 26	Social Movements and Food	FS: Chpt. 9
Dec 3	Governance: Food Citizenship, Food Democracy and Right to Food	SR: Sakai

Mobile Phone Policy

All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have a emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. **Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.**

Communications

Email is my preferred method of contact. It should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in "text message" format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading should read the course title. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Expect a response within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends.

Late Coursework

All coursework is due on the dates noted. Late coursework will only be accepted without penalty with appropriate documentation. Coursework received after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 10 % per day (including weekends).

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill” is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course

unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.