

Sustenance & Sustainability: The Human Ecology of Food – BIOL 3310-002

MW 3⁰⁰pm-4²⁰pm, LS 128 (discussions, etc.) & LS 102 (exams)

Dr. Jill DeVito 817-272-1225 jilldevito@uta.edu

Office Hours: M/W 1⁰⁰-1⁴⁵ M/W 4³⁰-5¹⁵ & by appointment LS 460

**** Spring 2016 **** Please note **census date Feb 3** and **drop deadline Apr 1** **

Description of Course Content: Analysis of modern food production and consumption from ecological, biogeographical, historical, cultural, and sociopolitical perspectives.

Student Learning Outcomes: This is an upper level special topics course with a discussion-based format, intended to illuminate the implications of our everyday decisions as consumers who play a key role in an intricate ecological system. We will examine dramatic historical changes in the relationship between human populations and our food sources. After critically evaluating the viewpoints represented in the chosen readings and films, students will pursue in depth a specific area of personal interest within the course themes, and will be encouraged to examine their own lifestyles and personal decisions about food consumption. As the journalist Michael Pollan has pointed out, we all vote with our forks. By the end of this course, students should have a profound understanding of exactly what they are voting for (and against) each time they purchase a meal or its ingredients, grow a garden, buy a hunting or fishing license, or pack their child's lunch box. They will acquire the background and tools to continue to follow issues associated with food production, distribution, and consumption as these dynamic forces continue to evolve in our society.

Wholehearted participation will be essential to the success of the course, and it will be mandatory for individual student success. ***Non-negotiable expectations include: on-time completion of assigned readings (to be documented with reading notes), a conscientious attendance record, and active involvement in classroom discussion.*** Students who wish to remain passive, anonymous learners are not a good fit for this course. Students will develop critical thinking skills, with an emphasis on synthesizing information from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. Students will hone their communication skills, and will be encouraged to make connections between course content and "real life."

Required Texts:

Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, Harper Perennial, 2008. ISBN 978-0060852566

Dan O'Brien, *Wild Idea*, University of Nebraska Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0803250963

James McWilliams, *Just Food*, Back Bay, 2010. ISBN 978-0316033756

Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Penguin, 2007. ISBN 978-0143038580

Spencer Wells, *Pandora's Seed*, Random House, 2011. ISBN 978-0812971910

Grading Policy:

10% attendance

30% reading notes (each one half credit if late; not accepted after one week past the due date)

20% midterm exam (essay format)

20% term project (10 min oral presentation, with proposal & bibliography)

20% final exam (essay format)

semester grade: A = 89.5-100%, B = 79.5-89.4% C = 69.5-79.4%, D = 59.5-69.4%, F < 59.5%

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be recorded and calculated as 10% of your total semester grade. It is especially important that you attend class on the scheduled day of your term project presentation, and on the day that you are scheduled as a discussion leader.

Late Assignment Policy: If you are unable to attend class, please e-mail any assignment due that day in advance (or as a last resort, later that same day) to receive full credit. Follow this up by turning in a hard copy unless otherwise instructed. As indicated above, late reading notes will receive 1/2 credit up to one week late (no credit for assignments more than one week late except under extreme circumstances at my discretion).

Make-up Exam Policy: If you know **in advance** that you have a schedule conflict with an exam date, please see me regarding possible make-up options *at my discretion*. If you miss an exam without adequate notice, I cannot make any promises about an opportunity to make it up. At any rate, do contact me as soon as possible (preferably by e-mail for timeliness) to explain the situation and try to find a solution.

Agenda – last updated: Nov 10

(exams will be in LS102; films, discussions & presentations will take place in LS 128 conference room)

- Jan 20 Wed introduction & preliminary assessment; brief discussion – personal goals in the course
TED lecture video – Carolyn Steel: How food shapes our cities
sign-ups for discussion leader schedule
- Jan 25 Mon reading selection due: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (introduction, chapter 8)
in class film: *America revealed: Ep. 1 Food Machine*
- Jan 27 Wed reading selection due: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (chapters 9,10)
in class film: *Food, Inc.*
- Feb 1 Mon reading selection due: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (chapters 11,12)
reading notes! Q&A – term project (and proposal) details
discussion led by _____ & _____ & _____
- Feb 3 Wed reading selection due: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (chapters 13,14)
in class film: *Guns Germs & Steel: Ep. 1 Out of Eden*
- Feb 8 Mon reading selection due: *Wild Idea* (chapters 1,2,3)
reading notes! discussion led by _____ & _____
- Feb 10 Wed reading selection due: *Wild Idea* (chapter 4,5,6)
short in-class video: Temple Grandin interview
TED lecture video – Allan Savory: How to fight desertification and reverse climate change
- Feb 15 Mon reading selection due: *Wild Idea* (chapters 7,8,9)
reading notes! term project proposals due in class; brief discussion – term project topics
discussion led by _____ & _____
- Feb 17 Wed reading selection due: *Wild Idea* (chapters 10,11,12)
in class film: *Fed Up*
- Feb 22 Mon reading selection due: *Wild Idea* (chapters 13,14,15)
reading notes! discussion led by _____ & _____
- Feb 24 Wed reading selection due: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (chapters 1,3,4,5)
reading notes! short in-class video: Barbara Kingsolver interview
discussion led by _____ & _____
- Feb 29 Mon reading selection due: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (chapters 6,7,8,10)
reading notes! TED lecture video – Marla Spivak: Why bees are disappearing
discussion led by _____ & _____
- Mar 2 Wed reading selection due: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (chapters 13,14,15)
reading notes! Q&A – essay exam strategy (practice questions)
discussion led by _____ & _____ & _____
- Mar 7 Mon reading selection due: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* (chapters 18,19,20)
reading notes! in class film segment: *The Botany of Desire (Potato: Control)*
discussion led by _____ & _____ & _____
- Mar 9 Wed **Midterm Exam **in our assigned classroom LS 102 ****
- Mar 14-19 **Spring Break (see you next week!)**

Mar 21 Mon	reading selection due: <i>Just Food</i> (introduction, chapter 1)
reading notes!	discussion led by _____ & _____
Mar 23 Wed	reading selection due: <i>Just Food</i> (chapters 2,3) in class film: <i>Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai</i>
Mar 28 Mon	reading selection due: <i>Just Food</i> (chapters 4,5)
reading notes!	discussion led by _____ & _____
Mar 30 Wed	reading selection due: <i>Just Food</i> (6, conclusion)
reading notes!	discussion led by _____ & _____
Apr 4 Mon	reading selection due: <i>Pandora's Seed</i> (chapter 1,2)
reading notes!	discussion led by _____ & _____
Apr 6 Wed	reading selection due: <i>Pandora's Seed</i> (chapter 3)
reading notes!	term project – oral presentations (10 min each)

	discussion led by _____
Apr 11 Mon	term project – oral presentations (10 min each)

Apr 13 Wed	_____

Apr 18 Mon	_____

Apr 20 Wed	_____

Apr 25 Wed	_____

May 2 Mon	tour UTA Community Garden & Composting Center (stand by for details)
May 4 Wed	special topic / possible flex day (stand by for details)
May 11 Wed	Final Exam 2⁰⁰pm **in our assigned classroom LS 102 **

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Jill DeVito, PhD

Emergency Exit Procedures: Class discussions will be held in the Biology Department conference room, LS 128, in the central hallway. If you turn left from LS 128, you should go through the double doors and turn left to exit via the South stairwell. If you turn right from LS 128, you may walk through the double doors to the main lobby area and exit toward the East (right wall), West (left wall), or North (straight across the lobby). The midterm and final exams will be held in our assigned classroom, LS 102. To exit this room, turn right (North) into the hallway, proceed through the glass weather doors and left (West) into the courtyard.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional nine hours per week of their own time in course-related activities (reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.).

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UTA Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.**

Americans With Disabilities Act: If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of the disability at the beginning of the semester and provide me with documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Drop for non-payment of tuition: Payment must be received by the term due date or your registration will be cancelled. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you may reregister for classes but only if seats are available.

After Hours Safety Escort: The Sam Mav Escort service provides a service to assist students, faculty, staff and campus visitors to reach their destinations after regular business hours. The hours of service are 7pm to 1am daily. 817-272-3381