

University of Toronto Department of Geography  
**GGR107 – Environment, Food, and People**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Fall 2016

Lecture: Fridays 10-12 (ES1050)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course critically examines the relations between food, nature, and society. Food is fundamental to human existence and is different across different cultures – it also shapes and is shaped by physical and social environments. This course uses food as a lens to explore human-environment interactions locally and globally, and introduces students to the study of geography by exploring the ways food is produced, processed, distributed and consumed.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the origins of the global food system and the issues, concepts, and theories that help us understand the relationships between food, the natural environment, and human society;
- Differentiate between claims and evidence in readings and lectures, and examine the assumptions and worldviews underlying different arguments (including their own);
- Identify and assemble appropriate and reputable sources of evidence to support their own arguments or perspectives on the course material;
- Communicate their opinions and supporting evidence more effectively, orally and in writing.

**INSTRUCTOR**

Name: Sarah Wakefield  
Office: University College B202<sup>1</sup>  
Office Hours: Fridays 1:30-3:00, or email to set up an appointment

**READINGS**

The reading list is comprised of articles and book chapters from a variety of sources. They generally focus on individual foods or commodities, but come together to highlight many of the important issues (social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, etc.) within the food system. The readings are available online through the U of T library system – check under “Library Course Reserves” on your personal portal page (not the course page) for a searchable database of readings.

**LECTURES**

Lectures will be held for two hours once a week. Lectures will be used to help interpret (as opposed to just summarize) the readings, to introduce and tie together concepts and examples, and to provide opportunities for student Q&A and discussion. In addition, lecture time may be used to show videos and host expert guest speakers.

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<sup>1</sup> To get to UC B202 from Sidney Smith Hall: cross St. George and go through the archway into the Sir Dan quad. Go straight ahead to the next archway – once under the arch, go through the left-hand doorway (if you reach the interior courtyard you have gone too far). Take the staircase up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and then turn right – my office is the first door on the left, just past the small classroom. Note that this location is NOT accessible: I am happy to make arrangements to meet elsewhere if need be!

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## COURSE WEBSITE

The course website is available through the University of Toronto portal ([portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca)). All students enrolled in the class should be able to view the link to the course once they enter the portal using their UTORID and password (any questions or concerns about portal access should be directed to the help desk in Robarts Library). All course materials – including the class schedule, tutorial guide, assignments, lecture slides, and quizzes – will be posted on the website. In addition, you can email the instructor and TAs through the site.

## EVALUATION

Online quizzes on readings	(due the night before lecture)	10%
Assignment 1 – Worldview Assessment & Critical Reading Exercise	(due October 14)	15%
Assignment 2 – Food Item Investigation	(due November 25)	35%
Final Examination	(during exam period)	35%
Tutorial participation	(in tutorial)	5%

Instructions for the **assignments** can be found in the Course Assignment handouts. You can access them through the course website. All written assignments are submitted electronically in this course - no paper copies are required! All assignments must be uploaded on BOTH the course website and the Turnitin.com website before midnight on the day the assignment is due; more information (including *Turnitin* submission codes) will be made available in tutorial.

**Online quizzes** on the readings will begin the second week of classes. To access the quiz for each week, select *Quizzes* from the main toolbar on the left hand side of Blackboard, and select the Quiz you wish to complete (note that you will not be able to complete the quiz for the week's readings after midnight on the night before the lecture). Once you select "Begin", you will see all the quiz questions - the multiple choice questions are generated randomly from a question bank, so the test will be slightly different every time. The quiz is set so that you can take as much time to complete the quiz as you like (please note, though, that the portal will log you out if your page is inactive for a long time). You can also take the quiz as many times as you like, until the due date. Keep in mind that the grade from your last quiz attempt (not your highest score) is the grade that will appear in grade center. When you are finished the quiz, you must **SUBMIT** the quiz in order for the grade to be saved in Blackboard – if you wish to abandon an attempt, you must **CANCEL** it, not just navigate away from the page. You must select **SUBMIT** (or **CANCEL**) before the quiz is due. If not, your previously submitted grade will become your grade from the course. (If you do not have a previous attempt, you will have a zero on the quiz).

**Tutorial participation** forms a small component of the grade for this course. Please see the *Tutorial Guide* for more information about the tutorials and what is expected of you.

## TUTORIALS

Tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss the lectures, readings, etc. in a smaller group. They will also help you develop the skills you need for the course assignments. Each tutorial is led by a teaching assistant (TA) – s/he will answer your questions about the assignments, and will also grade them. Tutorials will be held according to the schedule contained in the course schedule (available on the course website), **beginning in the third week of classes.**

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## COURSE POLICIES

**Contacting the Instructor and TAs:** Dr. Wakefield can be reached in person at her office during her office hours (or at other times by appointment; contact her through the Portal using the email function). She will be happy to answer any questions you have in person during these times. The TAs will also hold office hours – they will provide times and locations during the first tutorial.

**Late penalties, Extensions and Accommodations:** A late penalty of 5% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted from the grade per day for late work (including weekend days). Extensions will be granted in the case of illness or other emergencies, with appropriate documentation. If you require accommodation for a disability or long-term illness, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca).

**Turnitin.com:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to *Turnitin.com* for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. If you have concerns about the course's use of *Turnitin*, contact your TA at least a week before the first assignment is due, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. At the University of Toronto, examples of academic offences include:

- Using someone else's ideas without appropriate acknowledgement (in-text citation)
- Copying material word-for-word from a source and not placing the words within quotation marks (it isn't enough to put a citation there – the author's own words **MUST** be in quotations)
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
- Making up sources or facts, or including references to sources that you did not use
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
  - having someone else complete part or all of an assignment for you
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while editing (having someone read your work is a good idea, but they should tell you what is wrong, not fix it for you)
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own

The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor or TAs. More information is available at [www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students).

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COURSE POLICIES, continued...

**What Your Grades Mean:** The assignments in this course are graded according to the following scale (used throughout Arts & Science):

**A (80+)** *Exceptional* performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

**B (70-79)** *Good* performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

**C (60-69)** *Adequate* performance: student who is profiting from her or his university experience; understanding of the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

**D (50-59)** *Minimally acceptable* performance: some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.

**F (0-49)** *Inadequate* performance: little evidence of even superficial understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of sources.