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PSC 395.80: Food and Politics

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Political Science 395-80
Summer 2005
M-F 1:10-4:00
LA 337

Professor Adams
Office Hours: Daily, after class
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Food and Politics

Course Description and Objectives

This course explores the local, national, and international politics of food. Topics include hunger and taste; food production, aid, and trade; sustainability; and community agriculture. In considering these themes, we will use a variety of pedagogical tools, including readings, films, discussions, guest speakers, and field trips.

Course Texts

There is one required book, which is available for purchase at the UC Bookstore:

Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé, *Hope's Edge* (New York: Penguin, 2003).

Course Requirements

You are expected to attend class daily and complete all of the required reading before each class. Because the class lasts just one week and meets for three hours each day, this is even more important than during the regular school year.

Grading

Your grade in the class will be determined as follows:

- 50% attendance (10 pts per day)
- 25% participation (5 pts per day)
- 25% daily reaction papers (5 pts per day)

The plus/minus grading system will be used. Grades may be curved, but the following distribution is the lowest I will use (*i.e.*, if you earn 92% of all possible points you are assured of an A in the course):

92-100	A	82-87	B	72-77	C	62-67	D
90-91	A-	80-81	B-	70-71	C-	60-61	D-
88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+	0-59	F

Make-Up Policy

I will accept make-up work only in the event of extreme, documented emergencies. If you find yourself in the midst of an emergency, it is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible (before class if possible) that you will be unable to attend class. To do so, call me or send me an email explaining the circumstances of your emergency and giving me a way to contact you. I reserve the right to deny petitions for make-up work, and to administer makeup assignments substantially different from the regular ones.

I. Introduction (6/27)

Topics: Course overview and introductions
Hunger and taste

Required Reading:

Hope's Edge, Opening Note, Prologue, and Chs 1 & 2

Missoula Food Bank website,

<http://www.missoulafoodbank.org/InformationPages/MainPage.htm>

Recommended Reading:

Food First, "12 Myths about Hunger,"

<http://www.foodfirst.org/pubs/backgrdrs/1998/s98v5n3.html>

FAO, Food Security Map,

<http://www.fao.org/es/ess/faostat/foodsecurity/FSMap/map14.htm>

World Food Summit, website, http://www.fao.org/monitoringprogress/index_en.html

Food First, "Beyond the Food Bank,"

<http://www.foodfirst.org/pubs/backgrdrs/2004/f04v10n4.html>

Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* (excerpt and review available at

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/s/schlosser-fast.html>)

Alice Waters interview (video),

<http://www.epicurious.com/features/chefs/waters/video/part4/>

Field Trip: Missoula Food Bank (2:30-3:30) for a tour and discussion

II. Food Production & Aid, Part I (6/28)

Topics: Mechanization, concentration, and export orientation
Subsidies, foreign aid, and land reform

Countries discussed: US, Brazil, Bangladesh, India (Kerala), Sudan

Required Reading:

Hope's Edge, Chs 3, 4, 5

Recommended Reading:

USDA, "Food Market Structures" (production),

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodMarketStructures/industryorg.htm>

USDA, "Food Market Structures" (economic impact),

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodMarketStructures/foodandfiber.htm>

MT Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/> -- click on General Info, then MT Facts and Figures

MT Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/> -- click on General Info, then MT & US Ag Exports

MT Agricultural Statistics Service, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/> -- click on County Profiles, 2003, Missoula

Film: "The Politics of Food" (2 hours)

III. Food Production & Aid, Part II (6/29)

Topics: Green revolution, genetic modification, and organics
Community agriculture

Countries discussed: India, EU, Kenya, US

Required Reading:

Hope's Edge, Chs. 6, 7

Garden City Harvest, website, <http://www.gardencityharvest.org/>

Recommended Reading:

FAO, "Women & the Green Revolution,"

<http://www.fao.org/FOCUS/E/Women/green-e.htm>

Green Belt Movement, website, <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/index.php>

Christopher Cook, "Plowing for Profits," *In These Times*,

<http://www.inthesetimes.com/site/main/article/2009/>

Greg Lucas, "Frankenseeds," *California Journal*, June 2004, available through Lexis
Nexis

Field Trip: Garden City Harvest: PEAS Farm, Community Garden, & Youth Harvest

IV. Food Trade (6/30)

Topics: Free trade, fair trade, slow food, community agriculture, and worker rights

Countries discussed: Central America, Holland, Belgium, France, US

Required Readings:

Hope's Edge, Chs 8, 9, 10

Recommended Readings:

"The WTO under Fire," *The Economist*, 9/20/2003, available through Lexis Nexis

Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, "What is Fair Trade?,"

<http://www.jrpc.org/Fair%20trade/FairTrade.html>

MCSCB Shade Grown Coffee Project, website,

<http://www.forestry.umn.edu/students/organizations/mtscb/SHADE.HTML>

Slow Food USA, website, esp. "About US" and "International Manifesto,"

<http://www.slowfoodusa.org/about/>

Eric Schlosser, "A Side Order of Human Rights," *New York Times*, April 6, 2005,
available through Lexis Nexis

Film: "Broken Limbs" (1 hour)

Field Trip: Good Food Store, to meet with GFS personnel and Missoula Farmers Market
organizers

V. Conclusion (7/1)

Topics: Sustainability and community agriculture
The future

Required Readings:

Hope's Edge, Ch 11 and Epilogue

Alice Waters, "Letter to President Clinton and Vice President Gore,"

<http://www.earthlight.org/alicewaters23.html>

Reports of the Missoula County Community Food Assessment, <http://www.umt.edu/cfa/>

Guest Speaker: Bonnie Buckingham, a member of Missoula's Community Food and Agriculture Program