

The New School

Graduate Program in International Affairs, and The School for Undergraduate Studies

FALL 2014

Food, Global Trade and Development NINT 5375/NFDS 4260

Syllabus

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Class schedule: Wednesdays 4-5.50pm

Location: 66 W. 12th St., Room 410

Synopsis

While agricultural development is essential to food security, reducing poverty, and to the transformation of developing countries, the role of global trade is the object of intense controversies. Are global markets and speculation to blame for the recent spikes in food prices? Is trade an instrument of neoliberal globalization that erases local food traditions and productions to the advantage of transnational corporations, or can it be used to enhance the welfare of struggling communities all over the world? From a cultural and ethical perspective, is the global intrinsically bad and is the local intrinsically good? This course will explore the contemporary debates and policy choices on these issues, from the negotiations within the World Trade Organization, to food safety regulations, to the impact of GMOs on food security.

Prerequisite:

Although there are no formal pre-requisites, students would benefit more from this course with some background in development studies, including GPIA courses: THPD and Development Economics. The course is appropriate for undergraduate students with an interest in food studies and global studies.

Required Work:

Attendance will be an important part of learning in this course. Students are expected to attend all classes and come prepared. **Participating in discussion will be required and graded. One absence** will be excused beyond which each absence will count against half a grade on the participation part of the grade. Absences can be made up with two paragraph write ups of each of the required readings, one paragraph being an abstract and the second paragraph being commentary on the piece.

Assignments will include:

- Preparation for the in-class discussion of four case study dossiers
- Three memos (chosen from among the four case studies, **minimum of 2,000 words for undergraduates, 4,000 words for graduate students**)

This course is cross listed in GPIA and BA programs. It is a rigorous and challenging course for students in both programs. Requirements for reading, assignments and grading will be at a more demanding level for graduate students.

Grading

The final grade will determined as follows:

- 25 % for Presence, Preparation, and Participation
- 75% for 3 Memos (25% each)

Course communications:

A course page is created on Blackboard.

Individual communications to students will be made through the New School email account. Please make sure to check your New School email account regularly or arrange for emails to be forwarded to another account you check regularly.

Academic honesty and plagiarism:

Academic honesty includes accurate use of quotations, as well as appropriate and explicit citation of sources in instances of paraphrasing and describing ideas, or reporting on research findings, or any aspect of the work of others (including that of instructors and other students). The standards of academic honesty and citation of sources apply to all forms of academic work (examinations, essay theses, dissertations, computer work, art and design work, oral presentations, and other projects). The standards also include responsibility for meeting the requirements of particular courses of study. It is also the responsibility of students to learn the procedures specific to their discipline for correctly and appropriately differentiating their work from that of others.

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas in any academic work using books, journals, Internet postings, or other student papers without proper acknowledgment. For further information on proper acknowledgment and plagiarism, including proper expectations for paraphrasing source material and proper forms of citation in research and writing, students should consult the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (second edition), chapter 6, on documentation. The New School University Writing Center also provides useful online resources to help students understand and avoid plagiarism, at www.newschool.edu/admin/writingcenter/usefullinks.html.

Resources:

Some useful websites of think tanks and policy campaigns related to food, global trade and development:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome – fao.org

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2008-2014), Olivier de Schutter
<http://www.srfood.org/en/un-special-rapporteur-archive>

International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C. – <http://ifpri.org>

La Via Campesina, International Peasants' Movement <http://viacampesina.org/en/>

FIAN International for the Right to Adequate Food <http://www.fian.org>

Professor Dani Rodrik's weblog page (has many commentaries and discussions on trade, among other global economic policy issues) <http://rodrik.typepad.com/>

Course outline:

1. August 27

Introduction

- Course objectives
- Course requirements
- The Case Study method: brief introduction about the use of this method and expectations for the two cases to be discussed
- Discussion – Global Food Security – How to address the issue? What do international trade, economic growth, and politics got to do with it?
- Preparation:
 - Watch the video clip of the discussion “Rethinking Global Food Security” at the 2014 World Economic Forum in Davos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVIA3x3xlng>
 - What are the factors that panel speakers identify as relevant to address the issue of food security as world population grows and agriculture is increasingly subject to frequent shocks due to climate change and financialization? What are the key actions the panel speakers propose as solutions? How do they perspective and approaches differ?
 - Get a head start on readings for class 2.

2. September 3

Food security - alternative discourses

There is much debate about the global ‘food crisis’ and a long term food ‘problem’. But there are many ways that the problem is characterized and where the solutions lie. These controversies are driven by different perspectives or paradigms of the role of food for human well being. This class reviews the dominant discourses: food security; human rights approach and the right to food; Sen’s entitlement approach; human development; agricultural growth and development; sustainability and food sovereignty. Key learning objectives are:

- Major parameters of the ‘global food problem’
- Key concepts: Sen’s entitlement approach; right to food; food sovereignty; food security; agricultural growth
- Complementarities and contradiction between the concepts and how they shape policy debates

Required readings:

UN OHCHR Fact Sheet 34 The Right to Adequate Food (pp 1-29)
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet34en.pdf>

Sen, Amartya (1999) *Development as Freedom* Chapter 7 Famines and other Crises, pp. 160-188
http://books.google.com/books?id=XmfIeDy_taYC&pg=PT201&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#

Patel, Rajeev (2012) Food Sovereignty: Power, Gender and the Right to Food *PLoS Medicine* 2:6
<http://rajpatel.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/journal.pmed.1001223.pdf>

Agarwal, B. (2014, Jan). Food Sovereignty, food security and democratic choice: critical contradictions, difficult conciliations. *The Journal of Peasant Studies* .

Additional Readings for graduate students:

Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko (2014). 'A policy agenda for food security if gender mattered: re-framing food security as an international priority. Mimeo

Other resources

Pinstrup-Anderson (2009) Food Security: Definition and Measurement, *Food Security* 1:1 pp 9-15

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. 1999. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and General Comment 12*
<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/gencomm/escgencom12.htm>

Devereux, Stephen (2009) Why Does Famine Persist in Africa, *Food Security* 1:1 pp 25-35
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/1876-4517/1/1/>

Patel, Rajeev (2009) What does food sovereignty look like, *Journal of Peasant Studies* 36:3 pp 663-706 <http://rajpatel.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/jps-final-section.pdf>

Sen, Amartya, *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*

3. **September 10**

Production, small scale family farms, poverty and development

Required readings:

World Bank (2008) World Development Report, Overview
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/0,,contentMDK:23062293~pagePK:478093~piPK:477627~theSitePK:477624,00.html>

Agarwal, Bina (2012) Food Security, Productivity and Gender Inequality. IEG Working Paper 314
<https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/api/datastream?publicationPid=uk-ac-man-scw:163107&datastreamId=FULL-TEXT.PDF>

Additional readings for graduate students

IIED. 2013. Agriculture and food systems for a sustainable future: an integrated approach
https://docs.google.com/a/newschool.edu/gview?url=http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/88917157IIED_Agriculture+and+food+systems_post-2015.pdf&embedded=true

Committee on World Food Security (CFS). 2013. Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1213/gsf/GSF_Version_2_EN.pdf

4. **September 17**
Case Study: Gender, Food Security and the Traditional Courts Bill, South Africa
First Assignment Memo 1 (Due on September 24)

September 24
Rosh Hashanah – No Class

5. **October 1**
Agricultural trade: review of free trade theory and critiques; current issues in trade policies

Agricultural trade can be a driver of poverty reduction and food security. Policy reform in this area is one of the most contested issues in the Doha Round. Not only are there difficulties in achieving political consensus, there is a great deal of disagreement amongst trade economists about the impacts of policy reform on poor people and poor countries. This session reviews some of the key concepts in international trade and current debates about policy reform. Learning objectives:

- Theory of free trade
- Critique of free trade theory
- Links between free trade and poverty
- Policy controversies on trade in agriculture – subsidies, development tax

Required readings

Goodwin, Neva, Julie Nelson and Harris (2009), Macroeconomics in Context, chapter 13, The Global Economy, Armonk and London: M. E. Sharpe

FAO, (2005) *The State of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Trade – can trade work for the poor?* chapter 1 Introduction <http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/a0050e/a0050e00.htm>

Additional readings for graduate students

UNDP (2003) Making Trade Work for People, chapter 5, Agriculture (pp. 109-146
http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/trade_content/making_global_tradeworkforpeople/making_global_tradeworkforpeople.html

UNDP (2005) *Human Development Report: International cooperation at a crossroads – Aid, trade and security in an unequal world* chapter 4 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2005/>

Additional resources

FAO, (2005) *The State of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture and Trade – can trade work for the poor?* chapter 5; chapter 6 Trade and Food Security.
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/a0050e/a0050e00.htm>

Bouët, Antoine and David Laborde (2009) Eight Years of Doha Trade Talks: Where do we stand? *IFPRI Issue Brief 61* <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/eight-years-doha-trade-talks>

6. **October 8**

Global food system and power structures

The last two decades of globalization has brought major shifts in the structure of the global food system – its actors and rules - including the liberalization of national agricultural trade policies, multilateral trade agreements, decline in the role of the state in protecting and promoting domestic producers, the increasing role of agribusinesses in supply chains, the increasing role of global corporations in research and development, the emergence of and the increasing civil society concerns with sustainability and local sovereignty.

Learning objectives:

- Global shifts in actors and rules of global food systems and their uneven processes
- Perverse policies
- Consequences for food security especially of the poor in poor countries
- Need for stronger national and international policies

Required readings for undergraduates

Paarlberg, Robert (2010) *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. 2010. Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 3, 8, 14

De Schutter, Olivier (2011) “Towards more equitable value chains: alternative business models in support of the right to food”, Report presented at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly [A/66/262] <http://www.srfood.org/index.php/en/areas-of-work/chains-trade-and-aid/agribusiness>

Patel, Rajeev (2010) *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System*, London: Portobello Books. Chapter 5 (the Customer is our Enemy: A brief Introduction to Food System Business)

Required readings for graduate students

Patel, Rajeev (2010) *Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System*, London: Portobello Books. chapters 1 (Introduction); 4 (Just a Cry for Bread)

Supplementary Readings

De Schutter, Oliver (2010) Addressing Concentration in Supply Chains, Briefing Note 3 of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/otherdocuments/20101201_briefing-note-03_en.pdf

Other chapters in Patel 2010; and Paarlberg

7. **October 15**

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops: Understanding the controversies

Agricultural biotechnology is a powerful technology and the introduction of genetically modified crops has spread rapidly since the mid 1990s. Since then, it has been mired in controversy. The learning objective is to understand the political economy of the controversy - the interests of the diverse stakeholders including farmers, consumers, governments, scientists, seed companies – none of which are a homogenous group. This session will use the case study method to explore the subject.

Assignment: ‘What should Mr. Hobbs do?’ You are Mr. Hobbs, the Chief Executive of Oxfam International, faced with conflicting positions amongst your members and concerns.

Required readings:

Course packet

Additional readings for graduate students:

FAO (2004) *The State of Agriculture*, chapters 2-3-5

Ronald Herring (2007) “Stealth Seeds: Bioproperty, Biosafety, Biopolitics.” *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 1, 130–157

Vandana Shiva (2006) *Manifesto on the Future of Seeds*

Fukuda-Parr (2007) *The Gene Revolution*, Chapters 11,12

Second Assignment Memo 2 (Due October 22)

8. **October 22**

Food and Climate Change

Guest speaker: Sonali McDermid

(suggested order in which to read)

Godfray, et. Al. (2010). *Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People*.

Wheeler and Von Braun (2013). *Climate Change Impacts on Global Food Security*.

Foley, et. Al. (2005). *Global Consequences of Land Use*.

Foley, et. Al. (2011). Solutions for a cultivated planet.
Cassidy, et. Al. (2013). Redefining agricultural yields: from tonnes to people nourished per hectare.

Additional readings for graduate students

Lobell and Tebaldi, (2014). Getting caught with our plants down: the risks of a global crop yield slowdown from climate trends in the next two decades.

Vermueluen, et.al (2013). Climate Change and Food Systems.

Supplemental Readings

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts/impacts-on-food-security/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foodfeatures/feeding-9-billion/>

9. **October 29**

Food Chain Governance: Acai case study

Required readings:

Case Study Packet

Additional readings for graduate students

Gary Gareffi et al. “The governance of global value chains”. *Review of International Political Economy* 12:1 February 2005: 78–104

Third Assignment Memo 3 (Due on November 5)

10. **November 5**

The global food market in the 21st century – market volatility, financialization, climate change, biofuels, and trade rules and the pressure on small scale farmers

Required readings

von Braun, J. (2014). Aiming for food and nutrition security in a changed global context: strategy to end hunger. In J. A. Alonso, G. Cornia, & R. Vos, *Alternative Development Strategies in the Post 2015 Era* (pp. 163-180). New York and London: Bloomsbury Press and UN.

De Schutter, Oliver (2011). The World Trade Organization and the Post-Global Food Crisis: Putting Food Security First in the International Trade System. Briefing Note 4 of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Recall Agarwal 2012 from earlier class

Recall Fukuda-Parr 2014 from earlier class – section on emerging challenges

Additional readings for graduate students

HLPE (High Level Panel of Experts of World Food Council). (2011). Price volatility and food security, a report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. Rome: Committee on World Food Security.

Miguel Robles, Maximo Torero, and Joachim von Braun (2009) “When Speculation Matters” International Food Policy Research Institute, Brief 57

Additional resources

Peter Rosset (2009) “Agrofuels, Food Sovereignty, and the Contemporary Food Crisis” Bulletin of Science Technology Society 29 (3): 189-193

IFPRI. (2009). Climate Change: Impact on agriculture and costs of adaptation. Washington DC: IFPRI.

Ghosh, J. (2010). The Unnatural coupling: Food and Global Finance. Journal of Agrarian Change , 10 (1), 72-86.

Deininger, K., Byerlee, D., Lindsay, J., Norton, A., Selod, H., & Stickler, M. (2011). Rising global interest in farmland: can it yield sustainable and equitable benefits. Washington D.C.: World Bank.

Anuradha Mittal (2009) The 2008 Food Price Crisis: Rethinking Food Security Policies. UNCTAD, G-24 Discussion Paper Series # 56

Amela Ajanovic (2011) “Biofuels versus food production: Does biofuels production increase food prices?” Energy 36 (4): 2070-2076

11. November 12

Land Investments and Land Grabs

Required Readings

Hannah Twomey. 2014. Displacement and dispossession through land grabbing in Mozambique The limits of international and national legal instruments. Refugee Studies Centre Oxford Department of International Development University of Oxford

Christine Heumesser and Ewin Schmid. 2012. Trends in Foreign Direct Investment in the Agricultural Sector of Developing and Transition Countries: A review. Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

Additional readings for graduate students

Edouard Turkisch. 2011. Sovereign Wealth Funds as Investors in Africa: Opportunities and Barriers. OECD Development Center

Supplementary Readings

Helen Lei Sun. 2011. Understanding China's Agricultural Investments in Africa. South African Institute of International Affairs

12. **November 19**

TRIPS, Intellectual Property, and Geographical Indications

Required readings
Case study packet

Additional readings for graduate students

Daniele Giovannucci, Tim Josling, William Kerr, Bernard O'Connor, May T. Yeung (2009) *Geographical Indications: Linking Products and Their Origins*. International Trade Center

Fourth Assignment Memo 4 (Due November 26th)

November 26

Thanksgiving Break

13. **December 3**

Private Standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations

Guest speaker: Anastasia Thatcher (to be confirmed)

Required readings

Henson S.J., Loader R.J., Swinbank, A., Bredahl, M. and Lux N., *Impact of sanitary and phytosanitary measures on developing countries*, The University of Reading, Centre for Food Economics Research (pp. 1-50)

David Burch and Geoff Lawrence. (2005) "Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chain, and the Transformation of the Agri-Food System." *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 13 (1): 1-18

Additional readings for graduate students

Joost, Pauwelyn (1999) "The WTO agreement on SPS measures as applied in the first three SPS disputes." *Journal of International Economic Law* 2 (4): 641-664

14. **December 10**

Agrobiodiversity, Cultural Heritage, and Indigenous Knowledge

Required reading:

Juliana Santilli. 2012. "Agrobiodiversity and Cultural Heritage Law." *Agrobiodiversity and the Law*. Oxon: EarthScan (271-300)

James Miller. 2007. "Impact of the Convention on Biological Diversity: The Lessons of Ten Years of Experience with Models for Equitable Sharing of Benefits." In Charles McManis ed. *Biodiversity and the Law* (58-70) London: Earthscan.

Matthias Buck and Clare Hamilton. 2011. "The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity." *RECIEL* 20 (1): 47-61

Additional readings for graduate students

Juliana Santilli. 2012. "Agrobiodiversity and Protected Areas." *Agrobiodiversity and the Law*. Oxon: EarthScan (301-313)

Olufunmilayo B. Arewa. 2006. "Trips and Local Knowledge: Local Communities, Local Knowledge, and Global Intellectual Property Frameworks." *Marquette Intellectual Property Law Review* 10 (2): 155-180

15. **December 15**

For Undergraduate Only: Wrap up class