SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS ECONOMICS

UHON 351
The Global Food Economy
Spring, 2016

Instructor: Dr. Wanki Moon (Dept of Agribusiness Economics)
Office: Agriculture Building (#223B)
Phone: 453-6741; Email: wmoon@siu.edu

Five Big Questions
1. Is the global food system capable of increasing food production by 70 percent to feed the global population that is projected to increase to 9 billion by 2050?
2. Should we use tropical rainforests to increase food production?
3. Did our planet reach ecological limit in increasing food production?
4. Does agricultural biotechnology (genetic engineering) have the potential to contribute to increasing food production in developing countries?
5. Is the industrial monoculture agricultural production system sustainable?

Course Description
This course is designed to help students gain diverse perspectives in coping with global food problems of grave importance to humanity such as expected food shortages by 2050, environmental/ecological sustainability, adapting to climate change, hunger/food insecurity in least developed countries, and water shortages. The course examines: (i) global food demand and supply situations; (ii) technological, environmental/ecological, and institutional constraints in increasing global food production to feed 9 billion people by 2050; and (iii) various conceptual models of help in enhancing students’ understanding of the global food problems (i.e., liberal, reformist, progressive and radical approaches)

Learning Objectives
1. Understand the role of markets in shaping global food demand/supply
2. Understand the role of international politics in determining food production, consumption, distribution, and trade at the global level
3. Understand technological, ecological/environmental, and institutional constraints in increasing global agricultural production
4. Understand the extreme diversity of agriculture/food-related problems across different groups of countries around the world
5. Understand the role of multinational agribusiness corporations in shaping the global food system
6. Learn different perspectives (neoliberal, reformist, progressive, radical) in viewing the global food economy
Main Textbooks

Reference books

Readings


---

**Grading Scheme**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debate Participation (Five topics)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Outline of Topics**

I. Setting the Stage
   a. Disarray and Disorder in the Global Food Economy
   b. Different Types of Goods and Services: Private good, Public good, Moral/Ethical goods
   c. Discussion topic: What type of good is food? (the debate will take place after students watch Michael Sandel’s lecture on What Money Can’t Buy (30 minute video))
II. Different Lenses Viewing the Problems of the Global Food Economy
   a. Economics
   b. Politics
   c. Political Economy
   d. International Relations
   e. Environmental/Ecological Sustainability

III. Dimensions of World Food Systems and Development Problems
   a. Poverty, Hunger, and Malnutrition
   b. Economics of Food Demand
   c. Population

IV. Global Food Demand and Supply
   a. Population growth and food demand
   b. Global food production
   c. Aligning the consumption and production of food over time
   d. Discussion topic; Malthusianism

V. Development Theories and the Role of Agriculture
   a. Economic Transformation and Growth
   b. Development Theory and Growth Strategies

VI. Agriculture and the Environment
   a. Agricultural Sustainability
   b. Public goods at the local, national, and global levels
   c. Discussion topic: What to do about global public goods?

VII. Agricultural Development in an Interdependent World
   a. Agriculture and International Trade
   b. Trade Policies, Negotiations, and Agreements
   c. Macroeconomic Policies and Agricultural Development

VIII. Divergent Forces Affecting the Global Food System
   a. Liberal
   b. Reformist
   c. Progressive/
   d. Radical

IX. Diverse Agricultural Systems Across the World
   a. Agriculture in Affluent Nations
   b. Agriculture in Asia
   c. Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean
   d. Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa
e. Agriculture in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union
f. Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa

X. The global food economy in the 21st century