

University of Manitoba
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources
Department of Environment and Geography

GEOG/HNSC 3870

Food Geographies

Winter 2018, Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-12:45

Course Instructor: Kyle Gibson

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Office: Sinnott Building, Room 220B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines food consumption and production issues as analyzed in the current scholarship in geography and allied disciplines. It emphasizes that food is inherently geographical -- i.e. all food is produced and consumed *somewhere*. Geographical insights on food issues centre on food production and consumption as they vary across space, in place, and at scales of human-environment interaction from the personal to the global. Students are challenged to build their own understanding of the complex relations between people, what they eat, where and why they eat it, where food is grown and how it travels to their plate.

Course Objectives:

- Increase student understanding of geographic relationships in food issues, patterns and practices
- Increase student understanding of food as a nexus for evolving local-to-global (and vice versa) economic, social, cultural, political and environmental relations
- Improve student skills in critical thinking, reading, and writing

Evaluation:

Reading Responses (x7)	20%
Class Participation	15%
Midterm Exam (February 15)	20%
Book Review (March 15)	20%
Final Exam (April 5)	25%

Weekly reading responses are expected to be 350-400 words in length. They should include **three sections**: 1) a summary of the author's main argument(s); 2) a reaction to the reading (i.e. discussing its strengths and/or weaknesses); 3) a list of any points that need to be clarified or questions that you have about the assigned reading(s). Note that there will be roughly ten weeks of readings, but you are only required to write on seven of them. You are free to choose, then, which seven you'd like to write about. The responses should be uploaded to the UM Learn website no later than **Monday at midnight** -- that is, *prior* to the Tuesday class.

Student participation is central to a dynamic learning environment. Students are expected, therefore, to come to class having completed the readings *beforehand*, and to engage with the instructor and fellow students in a respectful manner.

The book review (4-5 pages) will be based on Michael Pollan's highly influential book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (2006). In formulating an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the book, students are expected to draw on themes and concepts covered in the course. A separate assignment sheet will be given to students midway through the term, which will outline in detail the requirements of this assignment. The scheduled due date is **March 15**.

Both the midterm and final exams will be held in class -- on **February 15** and **April 5** respectively. The exams will require students to 1) define key terms and 2) write an essay. Answers for both types of questions are expected to be synthetic. That is, answers should draw on a combination of assigned readings, class discussions, films, and any other relevant sources.

Letter Grades

The standard grading scheme used in the Department of Environment and Geography is as follows:

A+ = 90% +	B+ = 75-79%	C+ = 65-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 80-89%	B = 70-74%	C = 60-64%	F = < 50%

Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) deadline: March 16, 2018

Required Readings:

- 1) Most assigned readings will be made available through the UM Learn website.
- 2) There are two books to purchase for the class; both will be available at the U of M bookstore:
 - Guthman, Julie. 2011. *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*. Los Angeles and Berkeley: The University of California Press.
 - Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin.

Suggested Reading:

For students new to human geography -- or for those looking for concise yet informative discussions of core geographic concepts -- *The Dictionary of Human Geography* (edited by Derek Gregory *et al.*) is an indispensable resource. Affordable used copies can be obtained through online sellers, such as abebooks.ca.

NB: The intellectual development of students is my top priority. As such, I may decide to alter the syllabus at some point in the term to better suit students' needs and interests.

Class Schedule

A. Introduction

Week 1 (January 4) - Course Overview

Required reading:

- None

Suggested reading:

- Fraser, Evan. 2014. "10 Things You Need to Know About the Global Food System." *The Guardian*. Available at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/food-blog/10-things-need-to-know-global-food-system>

B. Key Concepts in Human Geography

Week 2 (January 9 and 11) - Commodity Chains

Required reading:

- "Commodity Chains: Where Does Your Breakfast Come From?" In Neil Coe, Philip Kelly, and Henry Yeung, *Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction* (pages 87-118). [available on UM Learn]

Week 3 (January 16 and 18) - Space, Place(lessness), and "Glocalization"

Required readings:

- Jackson, Peter. 2006. "Thinking Geographically." *Geography* 91 (3): 199-204. [available on UM Learn]
- Yan, Yungxiang. 2013. "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing." In Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik editors, *Food and Culture: A Reader*, pages 449-471. [available on UM Learn]

C. The Geographies of Hunger and Obesity

Week 4 (January 23 and 25) - "Stuffed and Starved"

Required reading:

- Patel, Raj. 2008. "Introduction." In *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System* (pages 1-19). [available on UM Learn]

- Albritton, Robert. 2013. "Between Obesity and Hunger: The Capitalist Food Industry." In Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik editors, *Food and Culture: A Reader* (pages 342-354). [available on UM Learn]

Week 5 (January 30 and February 1) - Industrialized Food Production

Required reading:

- Robert, Wayne. 2008. "Brave New Food." In *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food* (pages 31-51). [Available at UM Learn]

Documentary: *Food Inc.* (2008) [This will be watched in class.]

Week 6 (February 6 and 8)

- "Introduction: What's the Problem?" (pages 1-23) and "How Do We Know Obesity Is a Problem?" (pages 24-45). In Julie Guthman (2011). *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*.

Week 7 (February 13 and 15)

Required reading:

- "Whose Problem Is Obesity?" (pages 46-65). In Julie Guthman (2011). *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*.

*****February 15: Midterm exam (in-class)*****

February 20 and 22: Reading week (no classes)

Week 8 (February 27 and March 1)

Required reading:

- "Does Your Neighborhood Make You Fat?" (pages 66-90) and "Does Eating (Too Much) Make You Fat?" (pages 91-115). In Julie Guthman (2011). *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*.

Week 9 (March 6 and 8)

Required reading:

- "Does Farm Policy Make You Fat?" (pages 116-139) and "Will Fresh, Local, Organic Food Make You Thin?" (pages 140-162). In Julie Guthman (2011). *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*.

Week 10 (March 13 and 15)

Required reading:

- “What’s Capitalism Got to Do with It?” (pages 163-184) and “Conclusion: What’s on the Menu?” (pages 185-196). In Julie Guthman (2011). *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*.

D. The Meat Question

Week 11 (March 20 and 22) - Meat and Overcoming the “Friction of Distance”

Required reading:

- Cronon, William 1991. “Annihilating Space: Meat.” In *Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. (pages 207-262). [Available at UM Learn]

Week 12 (March 27 and 29) - The Ecological Hoofprint

Required reading:

- Weis, Tony. 2013. “The Meat of the Global Food Crisis.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 40 (1): 65–85. [Available at UM Learn]

E. Course Wrap-up

Week 13

April 3: Exam/course review

*****April 5: Final exam (in-class)*****

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and Cheating

Academic dishonesty is an offense to the goals and purposes of a university education, and is taken very seriously. It is strongly recommended that students review the online **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Tutorials**

http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/AI-and-Student-Conduct-Tutorials.html

The tutorials will refresh your knowledge of how to stay on the right side of Academic Integrity. Of particular import to this course is the correct use of sources and citation of resources used in writing research papers/essays. This includes the use of figures and images in both written work and in media such as PowerPoint presentations.

Penalties for engaging in academic dishonesty can include F-grades on assignments or the course, suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or from all courses taught in a Faculty. Faculty members have the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to programs and sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Course Technology and Electronic Devices

As this course requires access to UM Learn, students are expected to have a laptop or other computer and reliable Internet service, to access course information as posted to the course UM Learn site. Students are allowed to bring laptops into the classroom for note taking, however the instructor reserves the right to withdraw this privilege if students are found to be off task (e.g., surfing the Net, catching up on Snapchat etc.). Cellphones are to be silenced/off during class time.

Recording of classes is **not** permitted, unless this is an approved accommodation for a student registered with Student Accessibility Services (see below).

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and Accommodations

Students with any form of disability are strongly encouraged to register with and use the services offered by SAS. As your instructor I am always available to you to discuss implementation of accommodations as recommended by SAS.

Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment (RWLE) Policy

The University of Manitoba supports equity, diversity and the dignity of all people, and promotes equity in all learning programs, in employment and in the conduct of the affairs of the University. Every individual has the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices. The University is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from: a) discrimination or harassment as prohibited by the Manitoba Human Rights Code; b) sexual harassment; and c) personal harassment.

As members of this University community, we all share in the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a climate of respect. As a faculty member, it is my duty to address any situations in which respect is lacking. For additional information please review the RWLE policy:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Respectful Work and Learning Environment RWLE Policy - 2009 01 27.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Respectful_Work_and_Learning_Environment_RWLE_Policy_-_2009_01_27.pdf)

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

University Support Offices And Policies

Writing and Learning Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer

supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at:
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)

As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4>. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: www.umanitoba.ca/libraries.

Health and Wellness Support

For 24/7 mental health supports, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.

Student Counseling Centre (SCC)

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counseling. *Student Counseling Centre:*

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services
(204) 474-8592

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus

resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

Student Support Intake Assistant <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 University Centre

(204) 474-7423

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.

University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus

(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

Health and Wellness

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault.

Health and Wellness Educator <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html>

Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca

469 University Centre

(204) 295-9032

Live Well @ UofM

For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

Copyright Compliance

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's *Copyright Act*. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

University Policies and Important Information

Your rights and responsibilities

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html) <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections *University Policies and Procedures* and *General Academic Regulations*.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final **grade appeals**. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the **Academic Integrity** regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the **Student Academic Misconduct** procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:

Student Discipline

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html and,

Violent or Threatening Behaviour

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html

- If you experience **Sexual Assault** or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The **Sexual Assault** policy may be found at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>
- For information about rights and responsibilities regarding **Intellectual Property** view the policy http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school website <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an **Academic Advisor** within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca