

SOCIOLOGY 579/679
FOOD, JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Winter 2019

Daniel Jaffee
Associate Professor of Sociology

Wednesdays, 2:00-4:50 pm
Cramer Hall Rm. 268

Office Hours:
Tues. & Thurs., 2:15-3:15 pm
(or by appointment)
Office: Cramer Hall 217-H
Email: jaffee@pdx.edu

This graduate seminar examines the vibrant and growing range of social movements around food and agriculture, with an emphasis on social inequality and social justice. We begin by examining several theoretical and conceptual frameworks for understanding historical changes and current dynamics in the global food and agriculture system. We then explore different positions in the fraught debates around population growth, hunger, and the role of industrial agriculture and biotechnology versus low-input, small-scale peasant agriculture in feeding a growing global population. We examine agricultural labor, as well as food worker organizing at multiple sites in the food system. We then examine the dynamic frameworks of food sovereignty and agroecology that have emerged in recent decades from international agrarian movements including La Via Campesina, and look at the current phenomenon of new land grabs and social movement responses to them. We conclude with a look at alternative food movements including organic agriculture and fair trade, as well as efforts to defend seed diversity and sovereignty. Overall, the course focuses on food and agrarian movements in both the global North and the South, as well as transnational movements bridging South and North.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be familiar with:

- Theoretical and conceptual frameworks for analyzing the food system and its social effects, in the context of economic globalization and neoliberalism.
- Frameworks for understanding the major historical transformations that food production and consumption have undergone globally, including food regime theory.
- A range of critiques of the dominant industrial or conventional food and agriculture system, including but not limited to issues of social inequality and justice, labor, and environmental sustainability.
- A range of positions in debates on the root causes of hunger, famine and food insecurity and the best ways to address these problems.
- The multiple causes of the recent global food price crises and the phenomenon of global land grabs, as well as the social and environmental effects of these dynamics.
- A range of responses and alternatives to the dominant food and agriculture system, from agrarian, peasant, consumer, environmental, and other social movements.
- Multiple perspectives in debates over the meanings of food sovereignty and food justice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. WEEKLY RESPONSE POSTINGS:

For seven (7) class sessions during the quarter, you should write a thoughtful response/reaction incorporating all of that week's assigned readings. **These should be very short papers, between 600-900 words. They should be posted to our course D2L site no later than 8:00 am on the day of class,** so that everyone in the class can read each other's postings and begin the discussion online before we meet. Late posting policy: Responses posted between 8am and 10am will receive 50% credit; no credit will be given for postings later than 10am.

- **Posting a Response:** (On the D2L site, under "Content," click on "Activities," then "Discussions." Click on the folder for the appropriate date, and then "Compose" to start a new posting). *Please DO NOT attach your Word file to the posting; instead, please compose your response in a word processing program, then select the text of your response, copy it, and paste it into the text window for the posting.*
- **Replying to Others' Postings:** In order to facilitate an online discussion, please read all the other postings, and *write/post at least one reply to another student's posting, before class time. To respond to a posting, click on the posting, click "Reply," and type your response into the box.*

In these responses, you may criticize or praise the readings, tease out points of divergence or convergence, question key ideas, propose alternative approaches or clarifications, point out weaknesses, relate them to your own experience, examine or question their theoretical or methodological approach or underlying values and assumptions, pose questions they raise for you, and/or compare them to other readings. The key point is to give evidence of having critically and thoughtfully engaged with **all** of the required readings. Quotes from and references to specific passages in these readings (with page references) will be necessary evidence of your engagement. *Regardless of the specific topics you choose to reflect on in writing, you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss all of the readings.* I will read your responses, and respond to you by email with one of these comments:

- ++ Especially strong response—keep it coming!
- + Good response; you interacted meaningfully with the readings.
- Unsatisfactory; you didn't engage sufficiently with the readings.

All response postings that receive either + or ++ will count equally toward this portion of the course grade.

2. SCHOLARLY BOOK REVIEW or FOOD MOVEMENT RESEARCH PAPER

You can choose one of two options for your substantial written project:

A. Scholarly Book Review:

This assignment will be a review of a recent book (published in 2016 or later) broadly related to food-related social movements, which will be submitted for publication to an academic journal by the end of the term. Your choice of book should reflect your own research interests and goals, as well as topics and theoretical/analytical perspectives from the course. We will identify potential target journals early in the term.

For the book review, you should do the following in the first two weeks of the term: 1) read a number of published book reviews in several journals to familiarize yourself with the review approach and format; 2) identify both the book you wish to review and the journal to which you will submit the review; and 3) make contact with the book review editor(s) of your target journal(s) to confirm that they are open to receiving your review. We will discuss this assignment further in the early weeks of the quarter. Please consult individually with me about your book choice and your journal selection, or with any questions about the assignment in general.

B. Food Movement Research Paper:

This is a substantial (roughly 5,000-6,000 words, double spaced) individual research paper. Depending on the stage and focus of your graduate work, the paper may be structured as either a draft journal article, part of your master's thesis, a dissertation proposal or a dissertation chapter, a conference paper, a research report for a non-governmental organization, or some other format (upon consultation). The paper should focus either on one specific agrarian or food-related social movement, or potentially an issue cutting across multiple food movements, that is relevant to your own research interests/goals. The paper should incorporate both readings from the course and additional bibliographic resources, and it should demonstrate critical engagement with the key course themes and analytical frameworks. I will ask you to meet with me individually early in the term to discuss potential topics.

For both options, there will be a set of sub-deadlines:

- Paper or Book Review Proposal (2-3 pages): due by **Fri., Jan. 25**, end of day (by email).
- Initial Draft: due by **Weds., Feb. 27**.
- Peer Review Responses: due by **Weds., March 6**.
- In-Class Presentations: **Weds., March 13**
- Final Review/Paper: due by **Saturday, March 16, 5:00 pm** (on D2L).*

During the final course meeting (**March 13**), students will present the results of their research paper (or a summary of their book review) to the entire class, in approximately 10 minutes, in a conference presentation format. You are encouraged to use PowerPoint or other visuals to accompany your presentation. We will discuss this assignment further during the quarter. Feel free to consult with me individually about the paper/book review. ***Note: Final book reviews must be accompanied by a copy of proof of submission to the journal (email or screen shot).**

3. PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

This is a small, discussion-based graduate seminar. Your presence and active participation are essential for the learning experience of everyone in the course. You are expected to attend all class sessions, and actively participate in discussion. Missing more than one class session will affect the participation portion of your course grade. Everyone should arrive in class having completed all the required readings, and having read the other students' postings. Incomplete preparation deprives everyone of the benefit of your insights and analysis, and in a small seminar such as this one, that is especially detrimental.

EVALUATION

The final course grade will weigh the above assignments/requirements in the following way:

- Response Papers/Postings: 35%
- Discussion Participation: 30%
- Book Review or Research Paper: 35% (including in-class presentation)

READINGS

Book to Purchase (at PSU Bookstore, or from Food First [<http://foodfirst.org/book-store>]):

Tanya Kerssen. 2013. *Grabbing Power: The New Struggles for Land, Food, and Democracy in Northern Honduras*. Oakland: Food First Books.

E-book we will use (free access via PSU Library):

Seth Holmes. 2014. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Readings on D2L: All the remaining readings are posted in electronic form on the course D2L website (under the “Content” tab, in “Course Readings”).

Supplementary Readings: The readings listed as “supplementary” for each week are *optional*, for those who want to read more deeply into a topic, or as potential research sources. If you are very unfamiliar with the topic or theory covered, you may benefit from reading one or more of these pieces. In most cases these will be posted on D2L, but a few will not, in which case I am happy to make copies available if you want them.

•

PSU Sexual Harassment Policy: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. I also have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at: <https://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help>. For more information about Title IX, please complete the required student module “Creating a Safe Campus” in your D2L.

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities: PSU values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union: 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, <https://www.pdx.edu/drc>. If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodations.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

JANUARY 9 (Week 1): Setting the Table: Background and Key Themes

Fred Magdoff and Brian Tokar. 2010. "Agriculture and Food in Crisis: An Overview." 9-30 in *Agriculture and Food in Crisis: Conflict, Resistance, and Renewal*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Philip H. Howard. 2019. "Increasing Corporate Control: From Supermarkets to Seeds." 117-131 in Jason Konefal and Maki Hatanaka (eds.), *Twenty Lessons in the Sociology of Food and Agriculture*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé. 2016. "Fields of Hope and Power." 3-41 in Vandana Shiva (ed.), *Seed Sovereignty, Food Security*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books.

JANUARY 16 (Week 2): Historical and Theoretical Foundations: Food Regimes, Food Movements, Food Justice

On D2L:

Johanna Bockman. 2013. "Neoliberalism." *Contexts* 12(3): 14-15.

Walden Bello. 2009. *The Food Wars*. New York: Verso. 19-53, "Capitalism Versus the Peasant" and "Eroding the Mexican Countryside."

Harriet Friedmann. 1992. "Distance and Durability: Shaky Foundations of the World Food Economy." *Third World Quarterly* 13(2): 371-383.

Eric Holt-Giménez. 2011. "Food Security, Food Justice, or Food Sovereignty? Crises, Food Movements, and Regime Change." 309-330 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

E. Melanie DuPuis, Jill L. Harrison, and Michael Goodman. 2011. "Just Food?" 283-307 in Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman (eds.), *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Supplementary:

Documentary Film: "Food, Inc."

Alison Alkon. 2014. "Food Justice and the Challenge to Neoliberalism." *Gastronomica* 14(2):27-40.

Dara J. Bloom. 2019. "Globalization of Food: The World As a Supermarket." 133-146 in Jason Konefal and Maki Hatanaka (eds.), *Twenty Lessons in the Sociology of Food and Agriculture*.

Nour Dados and Raewyn Connell. 2012. "The Global South." *Contexts* 11(1): 12-13.

Gabriela Pechlaner and Gerardo Otero. 2010. "The Neoliberal Food Regime: Neoregulation and the New Division of Labor in North America." *Rural Sociology* 75(2): 175-208.

JANUARY 23 (Week 3): Hunger, Sustainability, Neo-Malthusians, and Anti-Malthusian Critiques

On D2L:

Garrett Hardin. 1974. "Lifeboat Ethics: the Case Against Helping the Poor." *Psychology Today* (Sept)

Vandana Shiva. 2005. *Earth Democracy*. Boston: South End Press. 53-61, "The False Tragedy of the Commons" and "Myths About and Reasons for Overpopulation."

Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins. 2010. *World Hunger: 10 Myths*. NY: Grove. 1-33, "Too Little Food, Too Many People."

Andrew Jacobs and Matt Richtel. 2017. "How Big Business Got Brazil Hooked on Junk Food." *New York Times*, Sept. 16, 2017.

Frances Moore Lappé. 2009. "The City That Ended Hunger." *Yes Magazine*, February 13.

Jahi Chappell. 2018. *Beginning to End Hunger: Food and the Environment in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and Beyond*. University of California Press. 1-33, Introduction.

Andrew Fisher. 2017. *Big Hunger: The Unholy Alliance Between Corporate America and Anti-Hunger Groups*. 1-10, Introduction.

JANUARY 30 (Week 4): Agricultural Labor, Migration, and Farmworker Justice

Seth Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies*. 1-110 and 155-198. (111-154 are optional.). (Access E-book via PSU Library)

On D2L:

Christine Ahn, Melissa Moore and Nick Parker. 2004. "Backgrounder: Migrant Farmworkers: America's New Plantation Workers." Oakland, CA: Food First.

Supplementary:

Documentary Film: "The Harvest/La Cosecha"

FEBRUARY 6 (Week 5): Farmworker and Food Service Labor Organizing

Guest Speaker: Amy Coplen, Ph.D. Candidate, *Urban Studies: Organizing Food Service Labor in the Portland Area*

On D2L:

Amy Coplen. "Survival Pending Revolution: Building Worker Power Through Mutual Aid in a Fast Food Chain." (Article manuscript)

Molly Solomon. 2018. "In Historic Election, Portland Burgerville Employees Vote to Unionize." *OPB News*, April 24. [OVER→]

Laura Anne Minkoff-Zern. 2017. "Farmworker-Led Food Movements Then and Now." 157-178 in Alkon and Guthman (eds.), *The New Food Activism*. University of California Press.

Deborah Barndt. 2004. "Fruits of Injustice: Women in the Post-NAFTA Food System." 37-51 in Gerardo Otero, ed., *Mexico in Transition: Neoliberal Globalism, the State and Civil Society*.

Charles Z. Levkoe, N. McClintock, L-A. Minkoff-Zern, A. Coplen, J. Gaddis, J. Lo, F. Tendick-Matesanz, & A.M. Weiler. 2016. "Forging Links Between Food Chain Labor Activists and Academics." *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 6(2).

Supplementary:

Documentary Film: "Food Chains" (Coalition of Immokalee Workers)

FEBRUARY 13 (Week 6): Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, and Peasant Movements in the South

Guest Speaker: Colin Anderson, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Agroecology, Water, and Resilience, Coventry University (U.K.)

On D2L:

Colin Anderson, Michel Pimbert, and Csilla Kiss. 2015. "Building, Defending, and Strengthening Agroecology: A Global Struggle for Food Sovereignty." ILEIA and Centre for Agroecology, Water, and Resilience, Coventry University.

Colin Anderson, Janneke Bruil, Jahi Chappell, Csilla Kiss, and Michel Pimbert. 2018. "Transitions to Sustainable Food Systems Through Agroecology" (Executive Summary). Prepared for UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Peter Rossett and María Elena Martínez Torres. 2010. "La Vía Campesina: The Birth and Evolution of a Transnational Social Movement." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 37(1): 149-175.

Peter Rosset. 2011. "Food Sovereignty and Alternative Paradigms to Confront Land Grabbing and the Food and Climate Crises." *Development* 54(1): 21-30.

***Also: Watch video:** "Agroecology: Vision, Practice, Movement":
<http://www.agroecologynow.com/video/ag/> (Note: watch the "long" 22-minute version of the video)

Supplementary:

Peter Rossett. 2003. "Food Sovereignty: Global Rallying Cry of Farmer Movements." *Food First Backgrounder* 9(4).

M. Jahi Chappell, Hannah Wittman, Christopher M. Bacon, Bruce G. Ferguson, Luis García Barrios, Raúl García Barrios, Daniel Jaffee, Jefferson Lima, V. Ernesto Méndez, Helda Morales, Lorena Soto Pinto, John Vandermeer, and Ivette Perfecto. "Food Sovereignty: An Alternative Paradigm for Poverty Reduction and Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America." *F1000Research* 2:235.

Wendy Wolford. 2010. *This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and the Meanings of Land in Brazil*. New York: Duke.

FEBRUARY 20 (Week 7): Land Grabs and Social Movement Responses

Tanya Kerssen. 2013. *Grabbing Power: The New Struggles for Land, Food, and Democracy in Northern Honduras*. (Entire book)

On D2L:

(Choose one of the following two readings):

Fred Pearce. 2012. *The Land Grabbers: The New Fight Over Who Owns the Earth*. Boston: Beacon Press. vii-16.

Philip McMichael. 2012. "The Land Grab and Corporate Food Regime Restructuring." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39(3-4): 681-701.

Supplementary:

Saskia Sassen. 2013. "Land Grabs Today: Feeding the Disassembly of National Territory." *Globalizations* 10(1): 25-46.

FEBRUARY 27 (Week 8): Alternative Food Movements: Organic Agriculture and Fair Trade

On D2L:

Brian Obach. 2015. *Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States*. Cambridge: MIT Press. (Introduction and Chapter 6)

Whenona Hauter. 2012. *Foodopoly*. The New Press. 98-115, "Organic Food: The Paradox."

Daniel Jaffee. 2014. *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival (Updated Edition)*. Berkeley: University of California Press (Excerpts).

Daniel Jaffee and Philip H. Howard. 2010. "Corporate Cooptation of Fair Trade and Organic Standards." *Agriculture and Human Values* 27(4): 387-399.

Julie Guthman. 2007. "The Polanyian Way? Voluntary Food Labels as Neoliberal Governance." *Antipode* 39:456-77.

***Also: View infographics** showing organic industry consolidation (and remaining independents) on Phil Howard's website: <https://philhoward.net/2017/05/08/organic-industry/>

Supplementary:

Documentary Film: "Black Gold."

William A. Munro and Rachel A. Schurman. 2008. "Sustaining Outrage: Cultural Capital, Strategic Location, and Motivating Sensibilities in the U.S. Anti-Genetic Engineering Movement." 145-176 in Wynne Wright and Gerard Middendorf (eds.), *The Fight Over Food*.

Renata Motta. 2016. "Global Capitalism and the Nation State in the Struggles Over GM Crops in Brazil." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 16 (4): 720-727.

MARCH 6 (Week 9): Defending Seeds: Seed Sovereignty; Open-Source Seeds

Guest Speaker: Jack R. Kloppenburg, Jr., Founder, Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI), and Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

On D2L:

Vandana Shiva. 2016. "Seed Sovereignty, Food Security" and "Sowing Seeds of Freedom." vii-xxi and 287-296 in Vandana Shiva (ed.), *Seed Sovereignty, Food Security: Women in the Vanguard of the Fight Against GMOs and Corporate Agriculture*. Berkeley: North Atlantic Books.

Jack Kloppenburg. 2014. "Re-purposing the Master's Tools: The Open Source Seed Initiative and the Struggle for Seed Sovereignty." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41(6): 1225-1246.

Jack Kloppenburg Jr., John Hendrickson, and G.W. Stevenson. 1996. "Coming in to the Foodshed." *Agriculture and Human Values* 13:3 (Summer): 33-42.

***Also: Look at website** for Open Source Seed Initiative: www.osseeds.org

Supplementary:

Wattnem, Tamara. 2016. "Seed Laws, Certification and Standardization: Outlawing Informal Seed Systems in the Global South." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 43(4): 850-867.

MARCH 13 (Week 10): Food Politics and Food Democracy; Where Do We Go From Here?

➔ Student Paper Presentations

On D2L:

Alison Hope Alkon and Julie Guthman. 2017. "A New Food Politics." 316-323 in *The New Food Activism*. Univ. California Press.

Neva Hassanein. 2003. "Practicing Food Democracy: A Pragmatic Politics of Transformation." *Journal of Rural Studies* 19: 77-86.

Saturnino (Jun) Borras. 2016. "Land Politics, Agrarian Movements, and Scholar-Activism." Inaugural Lecture, Transnational Institute. April 14.