

AEDE/IS 2580
Feast or Famine: The Global Business of Food
Spring 2020
Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:55-5:15pm, Kottman Hall 104

Instructor: Yilan (Alan) Xu
Office: Agricultural Administration Building 342
Email: xu.748@osu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment

Course Website: www.carmen.osu.edu

Lecture notes and other material will be posted on the course website.

Textbook

The course outline and lectures will follow *The World Food Economy (2011)* by Douglas Southgate, Douglas Graham, and Luther Tweeten (2nd Edition). Selected readings from academic journals and current news articles will be posted on the course website.

Communication

E-mail is the best way to reach me and, likewise, I will use it to reach you. Please do NOT use Carmen messages to communicate with me. I will try to reply emails within 24 hours, but in many cases it will be sooner. You should also check Carmen regularly for announcements, reminders and updates. All the grades will be posted in Carmen.

Course Overview

This course, for which there is no prerequisite, addresses trends in the consumption and production of food. Specific objectives reflect a general focus on the allocation of edible commodities and the resources used to produce the same.

- To understand population dynamics of relevance to food demand.
- To relate changes in food demand to improvements in living standards.
- To examine the impacts of technological improvement both on agriculture and on the human and natural resources harnessed for crop and livestock production.
- To apply the concept of scarcity to the study of trends in food prices.
- To relate trade and specialization to improved living standards, generally, and the alleviation of hunger, specifically.
- To appreciate that performance of the food economy depends on historical antecedents, environmental conditions, and other factors that vary from one part of the world to another.

By the end of the course students will be able to intelligently discuss the main issues regarding supply and demand of food in the world and understand the role each issue plays in a country's economic development. Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to have completed the required readings prior to class and be able to engage in intelligent discussion of the relevant issues. The class will be significantly better if students are willing to contribute both their personal experiences and their thoughts and insights.

Grading

Grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

- Midterm Exam: 35%
- Final Exam: 35%. The final exam designated date is Monday **Apr. 27 from 6:00pm-7:45pm** (<https://registrar.osu.edu/scheduling/SchedulingContent/SP20Finals.pdf>)
- Quizzes: 15%
- In-class presentations: 15%
- Floating Points: up to 5%

This course will follow the standard OSU grading scheme:

93 - 100 (A)
90 - 92.9 (A-)
87 - 89.9 (B+)
83 - 86.9 (B)
80 - 82.9 (B-)
77 - 79.9 (C+)
73 - 76.9 (C)
70 - 72.9 (C-)
67 - 69.9 (D+)
60 - 66.9 (D)
Below 60 (E)

Re-grade policy: If the total number of points you earned were miscalculated, then you can return the exam and I will recalculate your grade. If you believe there was an error in the grading process, then you must submit in writing your request explaining why you deserve more points than you received.

➤ Exams

The mid-term exam will cover Chapters 1 - 8 from the textbook, as well as any assigned readings and relevant class discussion. The second part of the course will cover Chapters 9-15, where specific regions of the world and interregional differences are analyzed.

The final exam will be cumulative. *If one's grade of the final exam is higher than the midterm, the midterm grade will be ignored and the final exam will have a weight of 70% of the total grad, otherwise the two exams will be worth 35% equally.*

Make-up exams will NOT be given without documented medical or family emergency. Medical emergencies can be certified by the Student Health Center (<http://shc.osu.edu/>). Family emergencies can be certified by the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (<http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu/>). If you fail to attend the midterm, the grade of your final exam could be used as your make-up exam instead of setting up a new date. It is your responsibility to plan around scheduled exam times.

➤ Quizzes

While I will not record attendance, there will be brief (10 minutes), frequent, in-class quizzes randomly assigned throughout the semester. These will be held at the beginning of class, and will test your familiarity both with the material covered during the previous class and the readings for the current class (if applicable). While there will be no make-up quizzes, your lowest two scores will be automatically dropped.

➤ *In-class presentations*

There will be presentations assigned for the second part of the course. The purpose of these is to use the concepts learned in the first part to analyze specific countries/regions and give you feedback to improve the quality of your term paper. You will be asked to investigate a topic and present it as a policymaker or economic advisor. You will work in a group of 4 students on the presentation. Each person should submit a one-page summary of the main ideas on the topic. Explicit instructions regarding the presentations will be posted on Carmen.

➤ *Floating Points*

These points are similar but not identical to conventional “bonus points” or “class participating points.” These points are not required part of the class but to earn them, there will be a combination of tasks related to the class, each associated with different points. These tasks may include finishing additional class assignments, participating in selected departmental seminars, conducting extra class oral presentations, attending short training courses, and more. Opportunities to take on these tasks will be given periodically throughout the duration of the class.

Accommodation Policy

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Academic Misconduct Statement

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see

https://trustees.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/2019/08/CodeStudentConduct_0.pdf

Taking Care of Yourself

A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other, and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises during the quarter are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (614-292-5766) for assistance, support and advocacy. This service is free and confidential.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topics Covered	Readings
1	Jan 7	Syllabus	
	Jan 9	Introduction	Ch. 1
2	Jan 14	Demographic transition & trends	Ch. 2
	Jan 16	Income & trends in demand	Ch. 2
3	Jan 21	Nature of agriculture	Ch. 3
	Jan 23	Extensification and intensification	Ch. 3
4	Jan 28	Beyond the farm and trends	Ch. 3
	Jan 30	Competitive equilibrium	Ch. 4
5	Feb 4	Public policy, trends and outlook	Ch. 4
	Feb 6	Market failure	Ch. 5
6	Feb 11	Climate change	Ch. 5
	Feb 13	Globalization and agriculture	Ch. 6
7	Feb 18	Agriculture and economic development	Ch. 7
	Feb 20	Food insecurity	Ch. 8
8	Feb 25	Food insecurity	Ch. 8
	Feb 27	Review Session	
9	Mar 3	Interregional differences	Ch. 9
	Mar 5	Midterm Exam	
	Mar 10	Spring Break	
	Mar 12	Spring Break	
10	Mar 17	Affluent nations	Ch. 10
	Mar 19	Asia	Ch. 11
11	Mar 24	Asia	Ch. 11
	Mar 26	Latin America	Ch. 12
12	Mar 31	Latin America	Ch. 12
	Apr 2	Middle East	Ch. 13
13	Apr 7	Eastern Europe	Ch. 14
	Apr 9	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 15
14	Apr 14	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 15
	Apr 16	Review Session	
	Apr 27	Final Exam in 104 Kottman Hall (regular classroom)	6:00pm-7:45pm