the political economy of food

FALL syllabus/schedule/readings
(online readings are constantly updated!)

all materials are provided for educational use only

week 1 September 8: introductory class

topic 1: production

Week 2 September 15 the green revolution


week 3 Sept 22 scale & efficiency (is bigger better?)

- required: Cook *Diet for a Dead Planet* pages 79-152 and 217-229.
- PC Kevin Morgan, Terry Marsden, and Jonathan Murdoch, "Geographies of Agri-Food" 53-88 in *Worlds of Food*. 2006: 
- optional (online):
  - Andrew Kimbrell, "Bigger But Not Better: Myth Number 5: Industrial Agriculture is Efficient" 01/04/2003
  - Michael Duffy, "Testimony illuminates issues of farm size, structure" excerpts from Testimony to Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives: 1998
  - Peter M. Rosset, "The Multiple Functions and Benefits of Small Farm Agriculture In the Context of Globalisation" *Worlds of Food*. 2006:
  - William Heffernan et. al., "Consolidation in the Food & Agriculture System", report to the National Farmers Union.
  - Patty Cantrell, Rhonda Perry & Paul Sturtz, excerpt from "Hog Wars: The Corporate Grab for Control of the Hog Industry in Columbia MO.
  - fish & shrimp
    - New Internationalist issue on fish, #325 (July 2000):
      - Anouk Ride, "Fishy business".
      - Meenakshi Raman, "Tree-hugging fishes".
      - John Kurien, "Behind the label".
  - check out the Mangrove Action Project
  - Susan C. Stonich and Isabel De La Torre, "Farming Shrimp, Harvesting Hunger: The Costs and Benefits of the

Week 4 September 29 organic
required: Cook, *Diet for a Dead Planet* pages 155-173


AND one from each section below:

**synthetic pesticides and fertilizers**

- Fields of Poison 2002: California Farmworkers and Pesticides, by California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
- Failing Health: Pesticide Use in California Schools, by California Public Interest Research Group Charitable Trust
- Toxics on Tap: Pesticides in California Drinking Water Sources, by California Public Interest Research Group Charitable Trust
- Bhopal Survivors Protest Dow's Presence at the World Summit on Sustainable Development

**organic laws & certification organizations:**

- The USDA National Organic Program website (the new federal standards, established 2000)
- Oregon Tilth, established 1974
- Organic Consumers Association

**organic goes corporate:**

- Phil Howard, *Who Owns What?* June 2004
- Michael Pollan, *Behind the Organic-Industrial Complex* New York Times 5.1.01
- PC Kevin Morgan, Terry Marsden, and Jonathan Murdoch, "California: The Parallel Worlds of Rival Agri-food Paradigms"

**critiques of organic**

- Aimee Shreck, *Social Sustainability, Farm Labor, and Organic Agriculture* 2005
- Frederick Kirschenmann (Past President of the Organic Trade Association) *The Organic Food Industry: Where We've Been, Where We Are, and Where We're Going* (no date)

**cuba goes organic**

- Peter Rosset & Medea Benjamin, *The Greening of the Revolution: Cuba's Experiment with Organic Agriculture*

exam 1 posted october 6, due october 24 5 pm
Week 5 October 6 "alternative" production

required: the two below + one from each of the following sections

- Nicanor Perlas, "Detoxifying the Green Revolution": A Success Story From the Philippines

Agroecology

- Miguel A. Altieri, (Division of Insect Biology University of California, Berkeley) *Modern Agriculture: Ecological impacts*
- Miguel A. Altieri, *Agroecology: principles and strategies for designing sustainable farming systems*
- Miguel A. Altieri & Clara Ines Nicholls *Applying agroecological concepts to the development of Ecologically Based Agriculture in Latin America*
- Miguel A. Altieri, *The Potential of Agroecology to Combat Hunger in the Developing World*

Biointensive:

- Ecology Action, introduction to *biointensive* growing

Biodynamic

- Biodynamic Farming & Gardening Association, *Introduction to Biodynamics*
- ATTRA, *Biodynamic Farming & Compost Preparation, Alternative Farming Systems Guide*

Permaculture

- Bill Mollison, *Introduction to Permaculture* Pamphlet I in the Permaculture Design Course Series
  - on utube: It's a bit hokey at times (made in 1989), but the series The Permaculture Course is a great introduction to permaculture. You can now watch it on YouTube. It's a little pt 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUr4uPe9WBk
  - pt 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g2mmqqEn08&mode=related&search=
  - pt 3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye90FxJmuw0&mode=related&search=
  - pt 4 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIPZKggxZ0E&mode=related&search=
  - pt 5 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPokZm_z9zM&mode=related&search=
  - pt 6 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd8TbW9MrQ&mode=related&search=
- ATTRA, *Introduction to Permaculture: Concepts & Resources*
- Bill Mollison, *Seeds of Change* #25. February 2002
- Masuoko Fukuoka, *One Straw Revolution* (1975). for interviews with fukuoka and articles about his methods, search Ms Fukuoka
- Mae-Wan Ho, "One Bird, ten thousand treasures". *Third World Resurgence* 110/111: 2-4. [3]
- agroforester.com, The Overstory #50: Animal Tractor Systems
- *Plants for a Future*
  - http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf
- *fallen fruit*
- participatory *wiki on plants*
- urban strategies: *City Repair, Art/Urban Repair* "city repair"in *chicago*
Wild/other

- Wild Rice in Minnesota
- Augustin Thyssen, Traditional Pig Farming The Ecologist 22/5/2002
- check out the Sustainable Farming Connection website (lots of tech info for farmers)
- Alternative Farming Systems Information Center website

recommended film: Global Gardener (Permaculture)

October 13 No Classes

Week 6 October 20 biotechnology

required: explore on your own: read at least 5 articles from below

what is it?

- Consumers for Education about Genetic Engineering, "Thirteen Myths about Genetic Engineering"
- biopiracy: Someshwar Singh, "Rampant Biopiracy of South's Biodiversity". Third World Network.
- industry's side of the biotech story http://www.whybiotech.com
- Joseph Vogel's book, The Biodiversity Cartel
- EU-U.S. Biotechnology Consultative Forum, December, 2000: "There is a lack of substantial scientific data and personal interpretations disguised as scientifically validated statements."

what do farmers think about it?

- Farmers' Declaration on Genetic Engineering in Agriculture, at National Family Farms Coalition
- "Farmers say 'no' to genetic engineering" Third World Resurgence 114/115: 36-37. [2]

some examples

- ETC GROUP, Genetic Pollution in Mexico's Center of Maize Diversity Food First Backgrounder Spring 2002.
- "Biopiracy, TRIPs, and the Patenting of Asia's Rice Bowl, a collective NGO situationer on IPRs on rice." May 1

regulations & policy

Mae-Wan Ho, "The End of Bad Science and Beginning Again with Life". Lecture for Conference on "The Limit what are people doing about it?

Northeast Resistance Against Genetic Engineering (NeRAGE)

Nighttime Gardening

Martin Khor, "A worldwide fight against biopiracy and patents on life"

http://www.monsantosucks.com


see the Sacramento Bee series, 2004.

Third World Network biotech pages

topic 2 : economics

Week 7 October 27 international economics

required: Cook Diet for a Dead Planet pages 229-242 AND any four articles below

"The Myth-- Scarcity: The Reality-- There IS enough food" and "World Hunger: 12 Myths" Frances Moore Lapp Raj Patel with Alexa Delwiche, The Profits of Famine: Southern Africa's Long Decade of Hunger Food First Backgrounder, Fall 2002 Volume 8, no. 4

Richard Milton, Hung out to Dry: Disastrous World Bank intervention in Yemen Date Published: 22/11/2001


IMF/World Bank basic intro

June 2005 G8 debt relief briefing from Jubilee Research


Stuart Hodkinson, "Oh No they didn't! Bono and Geldoff: 'We Saved Africa'" 26 October, 2005. UK Independent

Martin Khor, "Bailing out Countries or or Foreign Banks" Third World Economics No.176, 1-15 January 1998.

Essential Action on IMF/WB & AIDS crisis "The AIDS Famine"

Des McIllicuddy & Carol Dorgan, "Hunger, Debt, and Structural Adjustment", The Debt and Development Co.

RADIO: Food for Thought and Food for People: Lori Wallach & Anuradha Mittal Go to A-Infos to download a brochure promoting GMO foods in the name of poverty-eradication. However, 72% of countries that report malnutrition as a food problem....


Aaron Goldzimer, "Worse Than the World Bank? Export Credit Agencies--The Secret Engine of Globalization"

Peter Robbins, "A short history of African trade: Early trade and colonialism" International Institute of Tropical a

Peter Robbins, "Review of the Impact of Globalization on the agricultural sectors and rural communities of ACF

Peter Robbins, "Markets for Tropical Products", part 1 of Tropical Commodities and their Markets: A Guide and

Martin Khor, BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION BRIEFINGS No. 2 "FAO Asian Chief Calls for Move Away from G

recommended film: *Life & Debt*

**exam 2 posted November 3, due Nov 14 at 5 pm**

**Week 8 November 3 free trade**

required: explore on your own: read at least 5 articles from below

- Martin Khor, *Macroeconomic policies that affect the South's agriculture*, *Third World Resurgence* No. 100/10
- Lori Wallach, "The WTO's Slow Motion Coup Against Democracy: An Interview with Lori Wallach", *Multinationals*
- Muddassir Rizvi, "Corporate Farming Comes to Pakistan: The Harvest of Globalization & Business Influence".
- Shahid Husain, "Farmers to be Hit by WTO Agreement" *Daily Times, Pakistan* November 24, 2002.
- Patrick Barkham, *The banana wars explained* *The Guardian* Friday March 5, 1999
- "Civil Society Groups Reject the WTO Agriculture Draft", February 24, 2003
- Walden Bello, "Why Reform of the WTO is the Wrong Agenda" January 2000.
- Harry Cleaver's introduction to *Zapatistas! Documents of the New Mexican Revolution*, New York: Autonomedia
- Plan Colombia, see the *Mobilization on Colombia* and a report from SOAWatch
- Linus Atarah, "Playing Chicken: Ghana vs. the IMF" CorpWatch June 14th, 2005
- **TRIPS**
  - "Intellectual property rights, TRIPS Agreement and the CBD", TWN Statement to the 2nd meeting of the CBD, 18 January 2000
  - Carlos Correa, "Review of the Trips Agreement", *Third World Network.

**Privatization of Water**

- Maude Barlow, *Don't Swallow Their Water Grab: Clauses Put Forth at the Last Minute in Qatar Could Destroy the World’s Water*, Published on Friday, November 30, 2001 in the Toronto Globe & Mail.
- Daniel Zoll, *Soaking the Poor: S.F.’s Bechtel wants the Bolivian people to pay for its bad water invest-
- Patrick McCully (audio) on dams

- argentina vs. imf "goodbye & good riddance" & building alternatives: recovered factories,
- venezuela: *national social organization* and regional anti-neoliberal cooperation/ALBA
- bolivian *social movements*
- international finance and instruments such as the progressive tobin tax (this link definitely works if you cut and
- the international peasant movement, *La Vía Campesina*

**recommended film: This is What Free Trade Looks Like**

**fair trade**

- Aimee Shreck, *Resistance, distribution, and Power in the Fair Trade Banana Initiative* *Agriculture & Human Values*.
- James O'Nions, *"Fairtrade & Global Justice"*. 22 April 06. *Red Pepper* reposted on *ZNet*.

**organizations**: [TransFair USA, Equal Exchange, The Human Bean Company](http://www.caferebelion.com/hbmain.html)

- in 2002, Oxfam separated itself from the anti-globalization movement, issuing this [report](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/) through their [Make Trade Fair](http://www.maketradefair.org)

**food sovereignty**: NGO/CSO Forum for food sovereignty, *"Food Sovereignty: A Right for all"* 14 June, 2002


**policy for local food**

- Amory Starr, et. al., *"Overview of the Local Food Movement"* (second section only) in *"Sustaining Local Agriculture, Colorado"*, *Agriculture & Human Values*.
- [Community Supported Agriculture](http://www.csatro.com/)
- Jack Kloppenburg, Jr., John Hendrickson and G. W. Stevenson, *"Coming Into the Foodshed"* *Agriculture and Human Values*.
- Soil Association, *"Developing Local Food Economies: Soil Association Policy Recommendations"* 2/7/03
- City of Toronto, Department of Public Health, *Food Policy Council*, *"The way to a city's heart is through its stomach"*.
- Cardiff University's [Local food Works](http://www.localfoodworks.org/)
- Christopher D. Cook & John Rodgers, *"Community Food Security: A Growing Movement"* and here's the web
- *"Weaving the Food Web: Community Food Security in California"* California Community Food Security Network
- Check out the [Community Alliance with Family Farmers](http://www.communityalliance.org)

**urban agriculture**

- [City Farmer](http://www.cityfarmer.org/) website
- *"Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the United States: Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe"*. Prepared by the Urban Agriculture Committee of the CFSO

**community currency**

- Amory Starr, *"A market where you don't need money!: Creating currencies which serve communities"*, *The Post* Summer 1998: 6-7.
- Thomas H. Greco, Jr, *New Money for Healthy Communities* (1994) the largest CC operation in the US: [Ithaca Community Development Corporation](http://www.icdc.org/)
local markets

- John C. Cross, Ph.D., "Retailing in a neighborhood street market: A Tianquista family in Mexico City"
- Jennifer Abel, "Extension's Role with Farmers' Markets: Working with Farmers, Consumers, and Communities".

*** community supported agriculture ***

- "Eating for Your Community: A Report from the Founder of Community Supported Agriculture," by Robyn Van

**topic 3 : consumption**

**Week 10 November 17**

**production/consumption (commodification & enclosure)**

- optional online:
  - Karl Marx on enclosure, ch XXVI: "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation" AND ch XXVII "Expropriation".
  - James Petras, "You have to take action from below". ZNet, January 11, 2002.
  - Edward Goldsmith, "Unhygienic - or just small-scale?" The Ecologist Special Report June 2001

- interview with Maria Mies

**Week 11 November 24**

**food culture studies**
• required: Cook Diet for a Dead Planet pages 1-74 AND 174-216
• Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation, excerpt "The Bitter Truth About Fast Food"

• Marion Nestle, Food Politics, excerpt from introduction
• Tim Lang, "The Challenge of Food Culture: Healing the Madness". The Schumacher Lectures on Food, Land,

• final exam posted december 1 due dec 15 at 5:30 pm

Week 12 December 1 :

  • slow and local
    • Leitch article
    • PC Kevin Morgan, Terry Marsden, and Jonathan Murdoch, "Beyond the Placeless Foodscape: Place, Power, and Proven

Week 13 December 8 :

  land reform

  MST book

  NYT article on young farmers

  PICK and download: Promised Land: Competing Visions of Agrarian Reform, edited by Peter Rosset, Raj Patel, and Michael Cou