

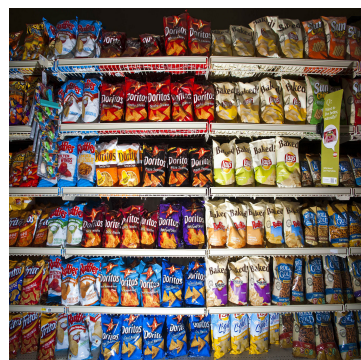
Sociology 5325: Food and Society

(3 credit hours)

Spring 2018
Online Seminar

Professor: Dr. Maki Hatanaka
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Office Hours: The best way to reach me is via email. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them. I am teaching multiple courses this semester. When emailing me, please include *the course number* in the subject line so that I can identify who you are and which class you are in.



(Sources: <http://www.awmalabor.com>; www.theatlantic.com; www.nj.com)

Course Description:

We all eat. However, this most basic human need is often taken for granted, especially by those who are surrounded by abundant food. This seminar is designed to sociologically examine the production, distribution, and consumption of food. In particular, the focus is on the analysis of the contemporary *food system*. Questions we will explore in this seminar include: Who controls the food system? What kinds of the food safety and quality regulations are in place and what are the implications of these regulations? What are the social and environmental impacts of the current food system? How do the institutions such as the government, science, the media, and culture, affect the food system? What are the alternative food movements, what are their goals, and how are they affecting the contemporary food system? In addressing these questions, students will learn to critically analyze the issues surrounding the food and society through a sociological lens.

This course is designed in an online format. To enroll in this course students are required to have a SHSU student I.D. card and a SHSU email account. The course is designed using the Blackboard system. Blackboard is available at <https://shsu.blackboard.com>.

To log on Blackboard:

- Type your SHSU username and password.
- Once in Blackboard, click on SOCI 5325 and you will enter the menu environment.

Once you enter the menu environment, you need to click on the items you wish to see to get the necessary information. The navigation menu for this course is located on the left-hand side of your browser window. To move to particular place in the course, you need to click on the navigation links in the menu.

Please make sure to take the Student Orientation Tutorial to learn how to use the Blackboard system prior to beginning this course.

If you face any technical difficulty while taking this online course, please contact SHSU Online Helpdesk Support. The help is available from 7am to 12am Monday through Saturday.

Phone: 936-294-3780

Email: delta@shsu.edu

IMPORTANT: Please note that online courses require individual students' self-discipline to a significant degree. In many ways, taking online courses are more challenging than taking in-person courses!! You need to be organized, motivated, and ready to self-teach and work. Only those who can manage these can be successful in this course.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this class, students will:

- 1) Be able to use a variety of sociological concepts, theories, and methods to analyze the production, distribution, and consumption of food.
- 2) Understand the primary characteristics of the contemporary food system, and the major changes that food and agricultural production, distribution, and consumption have gone through in the past century.
- 3) Be familiar with the impacts of these changes on communities, labor, and environments.
- 4) Learn to think critically about the roots of hunger, food insecurity, and uneven food access both domestically and internationally.
- 5) Be familiar with a variety of positions on highly disputed topics such as genetically engineered food, biotechnology, biofuels, and organics.
- 6) Be able to assess a range of alternative food systems that include food sovereignty movements, fairtrade, and local food.

Required Text:

- Carolan, Michael. 2012. *The Sociology of Food and Agriculture*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Warner, Melanie. 2013. *Pandora's Lunchbox*. Ne, NY: Scribner.
- Selected articles are also assigned and are available on blackboard.

Course Requirements:

1. Exams:

There will be two exams worth 100 points each during the semester. These exams will test you on materials from readings, lectures, video clips and movies, and discussion forums. Exams will be available on the days they are scheduled under the “Exams” menu, which is on the left-hand side of your browser window. You must take the exam between 6:00 AM on the first day and 12:00 AM (midnight) on the last day. The exams are open-book, but you must complete the exam in 90 minutes. You can take each exam only once. For exams, I strongly recommend you to secure a stable internet connection. The two exams are scheduled on the following dates:

- Exam 1 (3/7-3/9)
- Exam 2 (5/7-5/9)

All students are required to take the exams during the scheduled time. If students cannot take one of the exams at the scheduled time, it is their responsibility to notify the professor **prior to the scheduled exam time**. Make-up exams will be allowed only in official cases. Students are required to provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence.

2. Short Papers:

Throughout the semester, I will provide you with 5 sets of short paper assignments. You are required to choose **3 short paper assignments of your choice**. Each paper is worth 20 points. The short papers are designed to provide you with an opportunity to actively engage with the course materials, as well as help you think critically about food and society generally. Note that each paper requires you to do course readings beforehand and incorporate sociological ideas and concepts discussed in the units we cover. The paper must be 3 to 4 pages, double-spaced, and use 12-size Times New Roman font.

Content and due dates for these short papers are listed under “Short Paper Assignments” in the course navigation. All papers must be submitted using the turn-in function, which is set up in each unit. Please note that late submissions will be penalized and 5 points will be

deducted for every 24 hours after the due date. Some of the papers require you to complete an exercise beforehand. Please make sure to read and understand the short paper assignments in advance. Please note that you are allowed to do only three paper assignments. In other words, if you do more than three, your first three paper scores will be counted towards your final grade.

3. Discussion Forums:

Students are required to participate in 5 discussion forums. Each forum is worth 10 points. Discussion forums are scheduled in every other unit (i.e., one forum every two weeks) in which there is no short paper assignment.

Discussion forums will be opened from Monday to Friday. Note that students are required to make three posts in total to get full credit per forum. First, discussion questions will be posted on **Monday morning** (8:00 am). You need to make the first post responding to the questions **by 11:59 pm of Thursdays**. You can receive up until 6 points for this original post. Second, **by Fridays 11:59 pm**, you must respond to at least two posts by other students (2 points each).

Please remember that these are “forums.” Thus, my expectation is that students exchange their perspectives and learn from each other’s viewpoints. For this reason, you must make posts in a timely manner and **I am NOT going to accept late posts**. Needless to say, the quality of the comments also counts. Please make sure to read the discussion questions carefully and respond to them *fully*.

4. Term Paper

Students are expected to write one term paper (12-15 pages, excluding references, double-space, 12-point Times New Roman font). In this seminar, we will cover a variety of food-related topics. The aim is to expose you to a diverse array of themes on food and food systems today. While this approach enriches your understanding of food broadly, it allows limited opportunity to explore particular themes in more depth.

For the term paper assignment, you are to choose a topic that is covered in class that you would like to know more about (e.g., food security, food obesity, CAFO, genetically modified food, biofuel, organics, local food, fair trade, and alternative food movements) and examine it in depth. In writing this term paper, you are required to find a minimum of **six academic works** on your topic that I, the professor, might use in this class. That is, these articles must be analytical. You may want to start with the work conducted by social scientists, most notably sociologists and geographers. Building on these readings, as well as the assigned course readings, you are to write a term paper that sociologically examines your topic. The paper is worth 100 points. Students are required to communicate with me their topic for the term paper by 11:59 pm on 3/23.

Additionally, students are also required to engage in peer review of their fellow student’s term papers. Each student is required to review the term papers of two classmates and

provide *constructive* feedback (2 to 3 pages, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font). Peer reviews are a useful exercise in multiple ways. First, every student will be able to receive feedback based on which s/he can revise their paper for the final submission. Second, peer review will help you develop critical writing skills that are indispensable for successful graduate studies.

Each peer review paper is worth 10 points and I will assign the term papers each student is to review later in the class.

The following is the due dates for Term Paper:

- Topic of Term Paper DUE to professor: 3/23, 11:59 pm
- Drafted Term Paper DUE to reviewers: 4/20, 11:59 pm
- Term Paper Review DUE: 4/27, 11:59 pm
- Final Term Paper DUE: 5/4, 11:59 pm (Use Turn-In)

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| • Exam 1 | 100 points |
| • Exam 2 | 100 points |
| • 3 Short Papers | 60 points |
| • 5 Forums | 50 points |
| • Term Paper | 100 points |
| • Term Paper Peer Review | 20 points |

<u>Total</u>	430 points
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Grading will be on the straight scale. The scale is:

387-430 = A
344-386 = B
301-343 = C
258-300 = D
0-257 = F

Study Tips:

I have structured the class based on units. Typically, each unit consists of:

- 1) Assigned readings

- 2) Lecture slides
- 3) Media tool: blog/video/movie that is relevant to the unit topic
- 4) Unit assignment (either in a form of paper or discussion forum)

For each Unit, I would recommend the following steps for effective learning:

Step 1: Make sure to read all the assigned readings *before* viewing the lecture slides.

Step 2: Make a list of questions that you did not quite understand from the readings and write down sociologically significant points, perspectives, and ideas.

Step 3: Visit and go over the unit slides. Take notes. Elaborate on the notes you've prepared in Step 2.

Step 4: Explore the media tool (blog/video clip/movie). Note that these media items are selected due to their relevance to the unit topic. Try to analyze the videos *sociologically*. Think: Which sociological ideas and concepts covered in lectures are relevant and how?

Step 5: Try to answer the list of questions you developed in Step 2.

Step 6: Do the unit assignment.

Please note that I *assume* that students complete assigned readings **prior to** visiting the unit slides. Not that the assigned readings are spread rather unevenly. In addition, you are assigned to watch a movie in some units. This indicates that you need to strategically schedule your time to complete units in a timely manner.. It is you who is responsible for setting the pace and keeping up with the course requirements/assignments.

Do not hesitate to ask questions to the professor. If you need clarification, please feel free to communicate with me at anytime. Please note that I enjoy communicating with my students.

Please note that the SAM Center is also available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommend that you contact the SAM Center at (936) 294-4444 for assistance.

University Policies and Expectations:

University Code of Conduct

Please see: <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

Make-up Policies

If a student misses a scheduled exam, s/he will only be able to make it up with a medical excuse or some other pre-arranged official excuse. To make up an exam, students are required to notify the professor no later than 24 hours after the exam, and provide a valid excuse (e.g., doctor's note from a hospital). Students who fail to contact me in a timely manner will receive a zero for the exam.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not

be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

If you have a disability please come talk with me and notify the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made. For more information on Sam Houston State University's policy on students with disabilities, please see

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Students who participate in academically dishonest activities should be aware that they will receive an F for the course *at the minimum*. For more information, please visit University's Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Religious/Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and

instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For more information, please visit Observance of Religious/Holy Days: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor form toward the end of the semester.

Tentative Seminar Schedule:

Changes in the schedule may occur and will be announced in class. Students are responsible for keeping up with the modified schedule.

BB: Blackboard

CR: Carolan

WN: Warner

Unit 1: Introduction: Opening Thoughts (1/17-1/26)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 1
WN: Chapter 1-7
Nestle. 2013. "Introduction" (BB)
- Media Tool: Food Politics Blog
- Unit Assignment: Forum 1

Unit 2: The Contemporary Food System (1/29-2/2)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 2 and 3
WN: Chapter 8-10
Blatt 2008, Chapter 1&2
- Media Tool: King Corn (movie)
- Unit Assignment: Short paper #1 (Due 2/3, 11:59 pm)

Unit 3: Access of Food, Poverty, and Hunger (2/5-2/9)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 4, pp. 66-77.
Myers, 2018, “Hunger” (BB)
Holt-Gimenez and Patel 2009. Pp. 1-22. (BB)
Lappe 2006. “Hunger is not a Place” (BB)
Lappe and Collins 2015. “10 Myths” (BB)
- Media Tool: TED Talk: The Reality of Food Aid
- Unit Assignment: Forum 2

Unit 4: Excess of Food and Obesity (2/12-2/16)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 4, pp.77-80.
Pollan, Omnivore’s Dilemma, Chapter 6-7 (BB)
Guthman 2007. “Can’t Stomach it.” (BB)
Winson and Choi 2018, Food, Diets and Industrialization (BB)
- Media Tool: SuperSize Me (movie)
- Unit Assignment: Short paper #2 (Due 2/17, 11:59 pm)

Unit 5: Food Politics (2/19-2/23)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 4, pp. 81-89
G&J: Chapter 4
Nestle 2013. Food Politics, Chapter 1-3 (BB)
- Media Tool: Food Inc. (movie)
- Unit Assignment: Forum 3

Unit 6: CAFO (2/26-3/2)

- Readings: The CAFO Reader Part 4 (BB)
Constance and Bonanno 1999, “CAFO controversy” (BB)
Moss 2009. “The Burger that shattered her life” (BB)
- Media Tool: The Hidden Costs of Hamburgers
- Unit Assignment: Short Paper #3 (Due 3/3, 11:59 pm)

Unit 7: Mid-term Sum up (3/5-3/9)

- **No reading/media/Unit assignment**
- **Take Exam 1 (3/7-3/9)**

SPRING BREAK (3/12-3/16)

Unit 8: The Implications of the Contemporary Food System: Labor (3/19-3/23)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 5, pp.93-119
Grey 2018, “Labor” (BB)
Barndt, 2008. “Whose Choice? Flexible Women Workers in the Tomato Food Chain” (BB)
- Media Tool: “California’s Harvest of Shame”
- Unit Assignment: Short Paper #4 (Due 3/24, 11:59 pm)
- *Term Paper Topic DUE to Professor* (Due 3/23)

Unit 9: The Implications of the Contemporary Food System: Environment (3/26-3/30)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 10
Gillon 2018, “Food and the Environment” (BB)
Deumling et al. 2003. “Eating Up the Earth” (BB)
Starrs, 2005. “The SUV in the Pantry” (BB)
Mark R. 2008. “Fighting Climate Change: Food Miles vs. Food Choices.” (BB)
- Media Tool: TED talk by Mark Bittman
- Unit Assignment: Forum 4

Unit 10: Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (4/2-4/6)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 5, pp. 119-128.
Blatt 2008. Chapter 5 (BB)
Kinchy 2010, “Anti-genetic engineering activism” (BB)
Mendelson 2002. “Untested, Unlabeled, and You’re Eating it.” (BB)
Bittman 2011. “Why aren’t GMO Foods labeled?” (BB)
- Media Tool: Seeds of Death (movie)
- Unit Assignment: Short Paper #5: (Due 4/7, 11:59 pm)

Unit 11: Biofuel (4/9-4/13)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 8
Li 2011. “Centering labor in land grab debate” (BB)
Rosenthal 2011. “Rush to use crops as biofuel raises food prices.” (BB)

Monbiot 2012. “Must the poor go hungry just so the rich can drive?” (BB)

- Media Tool: Biofuels-The Answer or the Problem
- Unit Assignment: Forum 5

Unit 12: Organics and Fair Trade (4/16-4/20)

- Readings: CR: Chapter 11
Obach 2018, Organics (BB)
Guide to Fair Trade (BB)
Jaffee and Howard 2010. “Corporate Cooptation of Organic and Fair Trade Standards.” (BB)
- Media Tool: “Beyond Fair Trade” – Documentary Special- Part one and Part two
- Unit Assignment: Drafted Term Paper to your reviewers (Due 4/20, 11:59 pm)

Unit 13: Local Food and Food Sovereignty (4/23-4/27)

- Readings CR: Chapter 12
Hinrichs 2018 (BB)
Witman 2018 (BB)
- Media Tool: TED TALK by Ann Cooper: What’s wrong with school lunches
- Unit Assignment: Term Paper Review (Due 4/27, 11:59 pm).

Unit 14: Towards Future (4/30-5/4)

- Readings CR: Chapter 13
Alkon 2018: Food and Justice (BB)
Hatanaka and Konefal 2018: Conclusion (BB)
Kerton and Sinclair 2010, “Buying local organic food” (BB)
- Media Tool: TED TALK by Jamie Oliver: Teach every child about food
- Unit Assignment: Final Term Paper (Due 5/4, 11:59 pm)

Unit 15: Final Week

- Take Exam 2 (5/7-5/9)