Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
Master’s Program in Food Studies

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: World Food Agro-Industries
Course Number: FS 513
Credits & hours: 3 credits
Pre/Co-Requisites: Enrollment in the MA Program in Food Studies

Course description
The course reviews the current situation and prospects of the global food system, assessed from different analytical perspectives. The main part of the course is devoted to the analysis of the role played by transnational food corporations, as powerful actors of food systems; the rise of supermarkets worldwide; the international food trade, and the role of public and private standards in regulating the global food market. A critical assessment will be made of alternative governance modalities and markets as well as corporate social innovation. The final part of the course is devoted to another emerging feature of food systems: the centrality of cities in the food provision systems.

Selected chapters and pages from the following primary readings (subject to change)
- Claey’s, Priscilla. From Food Sovereignty to Peasants’ Rights: an Overview of La Via Campesina’s Rights-Based Claims over the Last 20 Years, Food Sovereignty: A Critical Dialogue - Conference paper 24, Yale University, 2013.
Global Institute (FGI), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and World Trade Organization (WTO), 2013.


- Karantininis Kostas et al.. Innovation and integration in the agri-food industry, Food Policy 35, pp. 112-120, 2010.


- Lusk, Jayson L. The political ideology of food, Food Policy 37, pp. 530-542, 2012.

- Morgan, Kevin et al.. The Urban Foodscape: World Cities and the New Food Equation,

Course Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. critically assess current key developments and trends of the global food system
2. examine the characteristics, objectives and activities of transnational corporations and the processes of mergers and acquisitions in the food sector
3. evaluate the reported impact on competition, innovation and consumers' choices
4. identify and distinguish the roles of international, public and private standards in food regulations
5. describe and analyze the role that urban centers play in food provision systems.
6. identify and compare the alternative global food system vision and practices by social movements
7. produce graduate level essays and present orally complex analyses related to the global food system

Course Learning Activities
- Individual study of primary and optional readings (LOs 1-6)
- Individual reading of policy or company reports and their analysis and discussion in class (LOs 2,3)
- Lectures, by faculty and agri-food professionals, with use of videos and with in-class debates (LOs 1-6)
- Oral presentations by students, individually and through group work (LO 7)
- Writing of well-informed short essays (LO 7)

Assessment tools
Participation in class lectures and discussions 10%
Individual oral presentations 10%
Presentation by working groups 10%
Mid-term Exam 30%
Final Exam 40%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings and other assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part I – Global food markets</strong></td>
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</table>
| 1 | General introduction to the course  
Contemporary global markets: monopolies, oligopolies, horizontal concentration and trusts, vertical integration, mergers and acquisitions  
Global food markets current trends: an overview  
World food trends for the next decades | Hannaford Ch. 1, 2, 3  
Patel 2008, Ch. 7  
FAO, Food Outlook 2013  
OECD-FAO, 2013  
Paarlberg 2013, Ch. 1  
Weis 2007 Ch. 5  
Lang et al Ch 8  
Alexandratos et al.. 2012 |
| 2 | World food markets and actors: change, global competition, instability, concentration trends, role of agro-industrial transnational corporations, nodes of power | Weis 2007 Ch. 1  
Lang et al.. 2004 Chapter 4  
Paarlberg 2013 Ch. 14  
Shand 2009  
Karantininis 2010  
Muehlfeld 2011  
Hendrickson et al.. 2008  
Mooney 1999, Parts 3, 4  
Howard 2009 |
| 3 | Contradictions of world food systems. the North-South divide in the global food regimes  
Consumption culture and trends: a field of competition for transnational corporation | Weis Ch.2, 3  
Mencher 2013  
FAO, SOFA 2013  
Lang et al. 2004 Ch. 4 and 5  
Patel chapter 5  
Nestle Ch. 1, 2 |
| 4 | Review of global food markets and individual oral presentations | |
| **Part II. Transnational corporations: a critical approach** | Monsanto, Syngenta, Chiquita, Cargill websites, annual reports and social responsibility reports / facts sheets.  
Barilla annual reports and sustainability report (more recent available); Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition website | |
| 5 | The large corporations of agro-food industry: selected case studies | Vorley 2003  
Patel 2008 Ch. 8,  
Traill 2006  
Paarlberg 2013 Ch. 11, 13  
ETC 2008 sect.2, 4  
Just label it campaign website  
Paarlberg 2000  
IFPRI 2008 |
| 6 | Large retailers’ power and world food market analysis by sector  
Focus on GMOs: ecology, human health, food security, property rights, economic impacts. | |
| 7 | Effects of concentration in USA food industry (markets, subsidies, regulation) | Wenonah Hauter 2012  
Pollan 2006 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-class debate: omnivore’s and locavore’s dilemmas</th>
<th>Desrochers et al., 2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Agro-food transnational corporations influence on food markets and policies: a critical assessment (guest lecturer Luca Colombo)</td>
<td>Colombo et al., part 1, Lang et al Ch 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The food regimes approach: history of food regimes, contradictory relations, contemporary crisis and restructuring Beyond food: green economy, biomass for energy production, agro-chemicals and pharmaceutical industries: innovation, vertical integration, property rights</td>
<td>Steele 2009, Chapters 1,2,3, FAO 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>How food provision shape our cities: history and current features</td>
<td>Steele 2009, Chapters 6,7, Reynolds 2009, Morgan et al., 2010, Morgan et al., 2008 (Chapters 1,2,7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Course review and final “questions/answers” examination</td>
<td>Morgan, K (2009)</td>
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</table>
ATTENDANCE POLICY

AUR’s attendance policy requires that students attend a minimum of 70% of required course meetings in order to receive a passing grade. Failure to attend 70% of the course will result in an F grade. In order to maintain the academic integrity of the Master’s programs and to meet the learning objectives, students are expected to attend all classes, meet all deadlines and be present for examinations.

Absences will undermine the focus of class discussions and student interaction.

Absences may be excused in exceptional circumstances, on permission of the instructor. Socially accepted standards of civility are expected in class.

Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>94 – 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td>90 – 93.99 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>87 – 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>83 – 86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>80 – 82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>77 – 79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>73 – 76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Less than Satisfactory</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>70 – 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>60 – 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>59.99 – 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDIT</td>
<td>Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student</td>
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</table>

Students can obtain no more than 3 C grades (including C+, C and C-) on all courses. Students with four or more C grades will not qualify for submitting their M.A. thesis and completing the program. They will be allowed to repeat a course in order to qualify. Students must obtain at least B- for their M.A. thesis in order to complete the M.A. program.