



COURSE NUMBER: GEOG 202

CREDITS: 3

COURSE TITLE: Geography of Food

PREREQUISITES: None

Total Hours: 39

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Food is at the centre of our daily lives and connects us to an amazing variety of social relationships, both locally and globally. This course takes a geographical look at the complex and sometimes surprising factors that determine what we eat and how it gets to our dinner plates. Topics covered include food history, industrial and alternative food chains today, the environmental impacts of agriculture, food politics, and the future of food.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have a better understanding of:

- The wide range of variables that influence how food is produced, distributed, and consumed.
- How a geographical perspective can help reveal the ways in which food issues link people and places together at local, regional, and global scales.
- The many ways in which studying food issues can illuminate current debates around wider environmental, economic, social, and political issues central to societies everywhere.
- The value of critical thinking and how to form supported opinions when considering complex food issues such as the environmental impacts of industrial agriculture, the causes hunger and famine, agricultural globalization, and the potentials and pitfalls of sustainable agriculture.

COURSE CONTENT:

| Week | Topic |
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| Week 1 | The Physical Basis of Food: Nutrition, Soil, and Geography |
| Week 2 | Hunting and Gathering: Indigenous Diets Past and Present |
| Week 3 | Revolutions in Agriculture: From Local Domestication to Foreign Plantation |
| Week 4 | Industrial Agriculture: From the Green Revolution to the Gene Revolution |
| Week 5 | Conquest or Famine? Food Provision and the Ambition of States |
| Week 6 | Eating Animals: The Impacts of Factory Farming |



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| Week 7 | Behind the Label: Fast Food, Food Scares, Fake Foods, and Food Secrets |
| Week 8 | Deindustrialization and the New International Division of Labour |
| Week 9 | Food and Identity: Cuisine as Cultural Difference |
| Week 11 | Alternate Agriculture I: Agroecology |
| Week 12 | Alternate Agriculture II: Beyond Organic Farming |
| Week 13 | Urban Agriculture: Relocalizing Food Production and Consumption |
| Week 14 | Imagining Food Futures |