

NR 5884 Food Policy and Sustainability

Offered: Summer (12-week) Semester

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Jones, PhD, (865) 201-4127, jenjones@vt.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food Systems*, 2nd Edition (Patel) ISBN: 978-1-612-19127-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How do politics and policy shape food and agricultural systems from “farm to fork,” including: production, regulation, distribution, sale and consumption? How is food connected to conservation and sustainability? What is the relationship between domestic agricultural systems, foreign policy, and international aid and trade? Why has there been an explosion in local, organic and free trade movements? This course will explore the structure of a globalized food landscape, with a focus on public and private decision-makers from government and industry to relief and development organizations. We will analyze the economic, ecological, and social dimensions of food and farming policy on contemporary urban and rural issues, such as climate change, land use and livelihoods, biotechnology, national security and political instability, trade and subsidies, and human health.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades will be computed on the following basis:

Discussion and participation – 30%

Case studies, critiques, and position papers – 40%

Final assignment – 30%

SCHEDULE:

Week 1-2 – The Global Food Crisis: An Introduction to the Issues

Week 3-4 – Foreign Policy, International Development, and Trade

Week 5-6 – Actors and Decision-Makers and the Systems They Operate Within

Week 7-8 – Food Sovereignty, Social Movements & Resistance to Global Food System

Week 9-10 – Nature Conservation, Land, and Health

Week 11-12 – Alternatives to the Status Quo