PIA5059: FOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Effective Term
Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Food Governance and Sustainable Development

Subject Code
PIA - Public and International Affairs
Course Number
5059

Academic Unit
Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
Nil

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Food is essential for life and for a livable future. Yet, food production and consumption has been problematic due to the industrialization of food production, unchecked globalization and extreme neoliberalism. This course introduces students to the global food system and provides a critical understanding of such a food system and food governance. An enhanced knowledge of the characteristics, its vulnerabilities, and the opportunities the global food system holds for benefiting society and the environment will be discussed. It will lead students to review various food models and policies that have impacts on public health, social equality and climate change. Students will realize how responsible food behavior and food practices will bring common good to the community and enhance social justice. The course contains lectures, class exercises, out of classroom field visits and team research project. It will take students to explore ways that promote sustainable development and improve food governance.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Enhance students' food literacy and understanding of the global food system.	20	x	x	x
2	Explore personal relationship with the environment, climate change, and sustainable development through food practices	20	x	x	x
3	Explore the relationships between nature, soil, and health	15	x	x	x
4	Contrast and compare different food policies and food governance models and their impacts on public health, environment and social equality.	15	x	x	x
5	Develop one's own sense of responsibility towards sustainable development and food justice.	15	x	x	x
6	Work in groups and conduct independent research on food and sustainability issues.	15	x	x	x

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures and seminars	Lecturers, Videos	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
2	Presentations	Participation in lectures, including presentation of case studies	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

3	In-class participation	Discussion of reading materials and visual material shown in class	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20	Formative	Yes
2	Group presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	30	(~3,500 words) Summative	No
3	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	50	Summative	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

In-class participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

To demonstrate the activeness of classroom participation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very good to excellent participation in presentations and class discussion

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good participation in presentations and class discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Satisfactory participation in presentations and class discussion

Marginal

(D) Adequate participation in presentations and class discussion

Failure

(F) Lack of attendance or participation in class discussion and presentations; and/or substantial plagiarism

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Assessment Task

Group presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

To assess individual presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding of the course

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of good to very good understanding of the course

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of general knowledge of the course

Marginal

(D) Demonstration of adequate knowledge of the course

Failure

(F) Fail to demonstrate basic knowledge of the course

Assessment Task

Term paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

To assess the ability to write a 3000-3500 words essay

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding and critical evaluation of impacts of food governance and sustainable development

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of good to very good understanding and critical evaluation of impacts of food governance and sustainable development

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration of general knowledge of main features of impacts of food governance and sustainable development but without good critical evaluation

Marginal

(D) Demonstration of adequate knowledge of main features of impacts of food governance and sustainable development but without good critical evaluation

Failure

(F) Failure to demonstrate basic knowledge of of impacts of food governance and sustainable development; inability to engage in critical evaluation

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Assessment Task

In-class participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

To demonstrate the activeness of classroom participation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very good to excellent participation in presentations and class discussion

Good

(B+, B) Good participation in presentations and class discussion

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Satisfactory participation in presentations and class discussion

Failure

(F) Lack of attendance or participation in class discussion and presentations; and/or substantial plagiarism

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Assessment Task
Group presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion
To assess individual presentation

Excellent
(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding of the course

Good
(B+, B) Demonstration of good to very good understanding of the course

Marginal
(B-, C+, C) Demonstration of general knowledge of the course

Failure
(F) Fail to demonstrate basic knowledge of the course

Assessment Task
Term paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion
To assess the ability to write a 3000-3500 words essay

Excellent
(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent understanding and critical evaluation of impacts of food governance and sustainable development

Good
(B+, B) Demonstration of good to very good understanding and critical evaluation of impacts of food governance and sustainable development

Marginal
(B-, C+, C) Demonstration of general knowledge of main features of food governance and sustainable development but without good critical evaluation

Failure
(F) Failure to demonstrate basic knowledge of impacts of food governance and sustainable development; inability to engage in critical evaluation

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus
Food system, food governance, sustainable development, organic food and organic farming, green revolution, food policy, food policy council, regenerative agriculture, soil management, industrialization of food production, climate change, carbon footprint, food miles, good food, greenhouse gas emission, vegetarianism, food justice, food sovereignty, food security, food safety, global food supply chain, food citizenship.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Ayres, J. and M. Bosia (2011) Beyond global summitry: Food sovereignty as localized resistance to globalization. Globalizations 8(1): 47-63.
2	Carson, R. (1994 [1962]) Silent Spring. Boston: Hougton Mifflin.
3	Caswell, H. (2008) Britain’s battle against food waste. British Nutrition Foundation Nutrition Bulletin 33: 331–335.
4	Chan, Y.W. (2016) ‘Food localism and resistance: A revival of agriculture and cross-border relations in Hong Kong. Asia-Pacific Viewpoint 57(3): 313-325.
5	Coulson, H. and P. Milbourne (2020) Food justice for all? Searching for the ‘justice multiple’ in UK food movements. Agriculture and Human Values, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-020-10142-5.
6	Counihan, C. and V. Siniscalchi (eds) (2014) Food Activism: Agency, Democracy and Economy. London: Bloomsbury.
7	Ericksen, P. J. (2008) Conceptualizing food systems for global environmental change research. Global Environmental Change 18: 234–245.
8	Freyer, B. and J. Bingen (eds) (2015) Re-Thinking Organic Food and Farming in a Changing World. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands.
9	Nestle, M. (2018) Unsavory Truth: How Food Companies Skew the Science of What We Eat. New York: Basic Books.
10	Reed, M. (2010) Rebels for the Soil: The Rise of the Global Organic Food and Farming Movement. London: Routledge.
11	Scherb, A. et al. (2012) Exploring food system policy: A survey of food policy councils in the United States. Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development 2(4): 3-14.
12	Scott, S. et al. (2018) Organic Food and Farming in China: Top-down and Bottom-up Ecological Initiatives. Waterloo: Routledge.
13	Smith, J.M. (2003) Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating. Portland: Yes Books.
14	Tendall, D.M., et al. (2015) Food system resilience: Defining the concept. Global Food Security 6: 17-23.
15	Mintz, S. (1985) Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. New York: Penguin Books.
16	Wilkins, J.L. (2005) Eating right here: Moving from consumer to food citizen. Agriculture and Human Values 22: 269–273.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Alexander, F.D. & M. Schneider (2018) The end of alternatives? Capitalist transformation, rural activism and the politics of possibility in China. The Journal of Peasant Studies 45(7):1221-1246.
2	Barrera, E.L. & M. Hertel (2021) Global food waste across the income spectrum: Implications for food prices, production and resource use. Food Policy 98: 101874.
3	Dorard, G. and S. Mathieu (2021) Vegetarian and omnivorous diets: A cross-sectional study of motivation, eating disorders, and body shape perception. Appetite 156, doi.org/10.1016/jappet.2020.104972.
4	Lal, R. et al. (2018) The carbon sequestration potential of terrestrial ecosystems. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 73(6): 145A-152A.
5	Luo, Z.H, R. Mu and X.B. Zhang (2006) Famine and overweight in China. Review of Agricultural Economics 28(3): 296–304.
6	Lynas, M. (2020) Seeds of Science: Why We Got It So Wrong on GMOs. New York: Bloomsbury.
7	Stagl, S. (2002) Local organic food markets: Potentials and limitations for contributing to sustainable development. Empirica 29: 145-162.
8	Szilagyi, A. (2013) Milk, lactose, lactase: the medical adventure. In D. Green & E. Lee (eds) Lactose: Structure, Food Industry Applications and Role in Disorders. New York: Nova Science Publishers.
9	Wiley, A. (2012) Milk for growth: global and local meanings of milk consumption in China, India, and the US. In B. Lawrance and C. de la Peña (eds) Local Foods Meet Global Foodways: Tasting History. London: Routledge.

10	Online resources
11	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zjr8mp3/articles/zjnxwnb
12	https://www.lawndalehs.org/apps/video/watch.jsp?v=50533
13	https://www.foodspan.org/lesson-plans/films/out-to-pasture.html
14	https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xx728t
15	https://www.foodspan.org/lesson-plans/films/growing-solutions.html
16	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5hA3PN0uic
17	https://www.who.int/health-topics/food-genetically-modified#tab=tab_1
18	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWCMql9gjgw