SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Food System: Advanced Topics

Course Number: FOOD-GE 2034
Credits: 3

Course Description:
This course is a survey of issues surrounding food production from a processing perspective. Students will gain an understanding various forms of food processing and the issues that surround industrial food production.

Assignments:
Paper One: Based on the first two sets of readings, write an analytical paper examining the rise of the industrial food system. (5 pages) 9 Feb

Paper Two: Choose an aspect of the industrial food system and write an explanation of its importance in the twentieth century. It should show your deep understanding of the technologies involved. (8-10 pages) 15 April

Final Paper: After reading both Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle and Steven Scholsher’s Fast Food Nation evaluate each in its historical context and compare and critique the issues each raises in relation to industrial food production. (10 pages) Due 11 May by 5:00 p.m.
Eric Schlosser. Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal (New York, NY: Harper Perennial, 2005) or other relevant text approved by professor.

Regarding writing assignments: I do not accept late work. All work is due at the beginning of class. Each paper should be well written and edited for grammar, spelling and typos. You should purchase a manual of style and a good copyediting book. I suggest Diana Hacker, A Pocket Style Manual 2nd ed. (Boston : Bedford Books, 1997) and Amy Einsohn, Copyeditor’s Handbook, (University of California Press, 2000), but you do not need to limit yourself to these. Please use a standard page-style such as double spaced Times 12 point or Arial 11 point fonts. If you use large spacing and/or fonts, your grade will reflect the “true” length of your paper. So that I can better understand your use of sources, use only Chicago Style Footnotes—you can find examples here http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/citation.htm.
Grading:

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Class Participation and Attendance:
In order to facilitate our discussion it is important not only that you read the material before class, but also to have considered the argument and its implications. Your preparation before class will ensure that we have very provocative and thought provoking discussions. Both the quantity and quality of your comments in class are important. A well thought out question is just as important to our conversations as lengthy comments. Because this is a graduate seminar and our discussions depend on your participation, I for allow two absences per student over the course of the semester. More than two absences will result in a failing grade. If you have extraordinary circumstances, please come see me.

A Note on Potter and Hotchkiss: The book is meant to give you an introduction to food science and technology and is strongly recommended for those of you not familiar with food processing.

Modern Food
26 Jan: Introduction

2 Feb: Foundations of an Industrial Food System

9 Feb: The Rise of Modern Science and the Birth of Food Science

Food Science, Technology and Processing

16 Feb: The Modern Icebox—Refrigeration
23 Feb: Taking Food Preservation Out of the Kitchen, the Story of Cannery Row

2 March: Industrial Breakfast

9 March: Industrial Meat

16 March: Spring Break—NO CLASS

23 March: Industrial Milk

30 March: Industrial Fish
Christine Keiner, *The Oyster Question: Scientists, Watermen, and the Maryland Chesapeake Bay since 1880* (Athens, University of Georgia Press, 2009)

6 April: Reshaping Animals
J. L. Anderson, “Lard to Lean: Making the Meat Type Hog in Post-World War II America”, in *Food Chains: From Farmyard to Shopping Cart*, Warren Belasco...

**The Food Business**

**13 April: Getting from There to Here**  
*Trains* Article [pdf on blackboard]

**20 April: Food as a Public Health Issue: Regulation and the Food System**  

**27 April: Trading Genes: Biotechnology and the Circulation of Genetic Material**  

**4 May: Class Summary**

**Final paper due 11 May by 5:00 pm.**