FOOD-GE 2288.001 Advanced Topics: Politics of Food Sovereignty

Fall 2017
Wednesdays 6:45-8:25
EDUC 1078
Professor Gustavo Setrini

Course Description
This course focuses on contemporary political struggles for control over agrifood systems. It examines the relationship between the capitalist development of agrifood systems and national sovereignty and focuses on Latin America, a major U.S. agricultural trading partner. Students will review recent research on topics, such as trade integration, land grabbing, food systems financialization, states and contemporary agrarian policies, agroecology, and transnational peasant movements.

Office hours
Tuesdays 4-6pm by appointment via the dept. main number: 212-998-5580

Required Books

Suggested Books


Assignments
50% Class Participation
50% Final Project

A Note on Assignments and Grading:
This is a discussion-based seminar class. It is essential that you carefully complete the assigned readings and be ready to discuss them in class. Your participation grade will assess your weekly contributions. Please label all assignments with your name and page numbers and submit them as PDFs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of all students. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, tampering and plagiarism.

You must reference all responses. To answer questions completely, students should research responses and use available resources (including textbooks, peer-reviewed journals, and credible websites). Sources must be documented with proper citations. Failure to properly cite references will result in academic penalties.
All students are responsible for understanding and complying with the NYU Steinhardt Statement on Academic Integrity. A copy is available at: (http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/academic_integrity).

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES
Any student attending NYU who needs a reasonable accommodation based on a qualified disability should register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980, 726 Broadway, 2nd Floor (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-wellness/students-with-disabilities.html). Please present a letter from the Moses Center to the instructor at the start of the semester in order to be considered for the appropriate accommodations.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT
New York University has guidelines for the rules governing education records of students. Refer to the following website for more information (http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-andguidelines/FERPA.html).

NYU ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY
NYU is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free of bias, prejudice, and harassment. For more information, refer to the following website (http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/policies/ahp).
September 6. Intro class

September 13. Capitalist Agriculture and Agrarian Question

Bernstein. Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change pp. 1-60

September 20. Agrarian questions and the peasantry today.

Bernstein. Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change pp. 61-124

Suggested

September 27. Food sovereignty, concept and origin


Suggested

Ch. 1. Origins, and Politics, Campaigns and Impact
Ch. 2. Peasants Make their own history but not just as they please


October 4. International politics and food sovereignty


Suggested
   Ch. 4. La Via Campesina and its Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform

   Ch. 4. WTO? ... We'll meet somewhere sometime and we'll be there

October 11. Food Sovereignty Movements in comparative perspective I


Suggested

October 18. Food Sovereignty Movements in comparative perspective II


Suggested

October 25. The Brazilian Movimento de Trabalhadores Sem Terra and land struggles


Or


**Suggested**


**November 1. Agroecology and Environment**


Ch. 2. Emergence Peasants Politics and Patrons  
Ch. 3. Contention Peasants Confronting GM Soybeans and Agrochemical Exposure

**November 8. Gender and food sovereignty**


Ch 6 Cooperation Collaboration and Community (Gender)

**November 15. THANKSGIVING NO CLASS**
November 22. Indigeneity and decoloniality


November 29. Diet and nutrition transitions and food sovereignty


December 6 Class Project Presentations

December 13. Back to the beginning.


Project/Paper Assignments

Assignment #1
Write a two-page description and outline of your project as you envision it at this moment. Your project will be an application of the reading and discussion we do in class in addition to your outside exploration of a topic related to food sovereignty.
Types of projects include:

1) A research paper; 2) a journalistic paper or article; 3) a media project (video, podcast, website, application, etc.); 4) an event organized on campus or in NYC related to food sovereignty; 5) anything else you propose.

Due by 5 p.m. Sept 27

Assignment #2
Building upon your previous assignment, write a 3-4 page “Plan of Action” for your project. It should include:

1. A Title and brief description of your project. This should consolidate the description and outline from Assignment #1. Include a problem statement: What is the subject of your study? Why is it important? What makes it original or interesting enough to pursue?
2. Design, Methods and Theory: Describe, to the extent you can, your research/project design. What theories if any will you incorporate? What methodological strategies will you employ to collect and analyze your data? What special skills or tools will you need to employ to do your research?
3. Sources: What sources you will examine and/or include? What will you really focus on? What additional research do you need to do to make this project work? Where will you find the necessary information? Books, articles, websites, archives, interviews, participant observation, statistical databases are all fair game. But use this assignment to identify where to look and what to do with the information.
4. Quick review of literature: What academic literature supports this study? For research papers: How have others successfully or inadequately addressed the problem raised in your study? What holes are left that you plan to fill? For other projects: How will you apply the theoretical and empirical perspectives from the academic literature?
5. Timeline: Include a rough outline of dates when you will accomplish specific tasks for your project. Include the deadlines required by class but provide more detail.

Due 5 p.m. October 11

Assignment #3
Literature Review or Annotated Bibliography

You will need to do additional reading to inform any kind of project with both empirical and theoretical perspective. Turn in a draft literature review or an annotated bibliography – that is, review the sources that you are using, summarize them, and show how they relate to your work. You should annotate at least 15 sources.
Due 5 p.m. Nov 1

Assignment #4
The Argument/Proposal

Argument: Write a paragraph that articulates the argument of your paper or the central point of your project. Revise it into 2 or 3 sentences. Finally, write it again in 1 sentence. Bring all three to class.

Due 5 p.m. Nov 15

Assignment #5
Presentation and Rough draft

Please prepare a 5-7 minute presentation of your project. You may use power point or any media you like, or simply speak for 5-7 minutes.

Please send your draft to the group at least two days before we are scheduled to discuss your paper and be prepared to start off discussion with a few minutes on your project and on the sort of feedback that is most useful to you.

Due 5 p.m. Dec 4

Assignment #6 Final Research Paper/Project
Please submit all final work electronically to course website. You can upload media projects or submit a link. Papers should be no more than 20 pages in length.

Due 11:59pm Dec 15

Please make sure that all assignments are free of typographical and grammatical errors. I strongly urge even the most accomplished writers to seek periodic advice from the Writing Center. Make your appointments early, as they book up quickly.

Grading Criteria (for project)
Project Description 10 %
Plan of Action 10 %
Lit Review/Annotated Bibliography (or equivalent) 10 %
Argument/Statement of Purpose 10 %
Rough Draft 10%
Final Paper 40%