Poli 125B
The Politics of Food in a Global Economy
Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-4:50 PM

**Instructor:** Brian Engelsma  
**Email:** BEngelsma@ucsd.edu  
**Course Website:**  
**Office Hours:** By appointment.  
**Teaching Assistant:** Rachel Skillman  
**Teaching Assistant Email:** RSkillma@ucsd.edu

This syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes through Canvas or email.

**Course Description:** This course explores emerging issues in production and consumption of food in a global economy. On the production side, we discuss issues such as famine, overproduction of commercial crops, and sustainability. On the consumption side, we explore issues such as fair trade, ethical consumption, and public health consequences (such as obesity). Then we discuss the roles of governments, international organizations, and communities to address these issues.

**COVID-19 Accommodations:** As a result of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic this course has made several changes to accommodate remote, asynchronous learning. This course has been modified so that students can complete it both remotely and asynchronously. You do not need to be in San Diego, the Pacific Time Zone, or the United States to complete this course. For each class meeting I will upload two lectures to Canvas. Students may watch these lectures whenever they like, and as often as they like. I will upload these lectures as soon as I can, and no later than the morning before class San Diego time. Each lecture is designed to replace a roughly 50 minute in-class lecture. The final 50 minutes of each class will be used as an office hours/discussion session hybrid over Zoom. Attendance is not mandatory, and will not be tracked. All assignments have been adjusted so that they may be completed remotely.

If at any point in the quarter your personal circumstances make it difficult for you to keep up with the course, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make sure to provide you with whatever support and accommodations you may need.

**Class Texts:** There are no required textbooks. All class readings will be made available through Canvas. Please complete all assigned readings before the class in which they are assigned. There will be three reading quizzes throughout the quarter, described in greater detail below. You are not responsible for readings labeled optional, and they will not be
Course Objectives:
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Assess the role of agricultural production in the formation of political institutions
2. Identify political institutions governing and regulating agricultural production
3. Discuss collective action problems facing agricultural producers, and several potential solutions
4. Understand how agricultural production influences conflict
5. Explain how famines, droughts, and technological changes affect elections and other political outcomes
6. Describe the role of free trade and fair trade in global agriculture markets
7. Consider how agricultural production and consumption influences the policy making process
8. Research food policy in a country of their choice

Grading:
Final Grades will calculated with the following weights:
- Reading Quizzes 30%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Research Project
  - Research Presentation 10%
  - Research Paper 30%

Note: No extra credit will be offered in this course.

Letter Grade Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.00 - 100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.00 - 92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.00 - 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.00 - 86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.00 - 82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.00 - 79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.00 - 76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.00 - 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.00 - 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.00 - 66.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;= 59.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Policies:

- **General**
  - Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes.
  - Late assignments will not be accepted without a legitimate, documented excuse. Please inform me as soon as possible if you anticipate any accommodations.
  - No makeup quizzes or exams will be given.

- **Assignments and Evaluations**
  - Reading Quizzes: Three reading quizzes will be given throughout the course. Quizzes will be a mixture of multiple choice and true false, and will not be cumulative.
- Mid-term Exam: There will be a mid-term exam on July 16th. It will be a closed book exam. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions, definitions, and short answers.

- Research Project: Students will prepare a research project during the course. Students will select a country they are interested in, and research some aspect(s) of food politics in their selected country. The research project will consist of two parts: a presentation and a country case report. I suggest students begin thinking about this project early during the course and discuss potential cases with me.

  * Research Presentation: Students should prepare and present a roughly five minute presentation based on their country case report, to be recorded before the final class and posted on Canvas.
  * Country Case Report: In place of a final exam, students will write a 5-7 page country case report, to be turned in during finals week.

**Grades**

- Grades in the C range represent performance that meets expectations; Grades in the B range represent performance that is substantially better than the expectations; Grades in the A range represent work that is excellent.

- Grades will be maintained in Canvas. Students are responsible for tracking their progress by referring to the online gradebook.

- If you are dissatisfied with a grade, you may contest your grade by writing a one-page memo within one week of receiving your grade. This memo should describe both what you believe to be the grading error, as well as the grade you feel you deserve. Note that regrade requests should be to correct an error in grading, not to negotiate for a higher grade.

**University Policies:**

- **Academic Integrity:** I expect all students to uphold the principles of academic integrity throughout the course. Lying, cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All academic integrity violations will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and result in sanctions. You can read more about the university’s academic integrity policies at [https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu](https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu).

- **Accessibility & Accommodations:** Students requiring special accommodations may request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities. Please inform me of any accommodations with the proper documentation as soon as possible, and no later than one week before the mid-term exam. More information is available online at [https://osd.ucsd.edu](https://osd.ucsd.edu).

- **Inclusion & Basic Needs:** We are committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspective, experience, and identity. To that end, half of all course texts have at least one author from a group underrepresented in academia. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated. Any speech or act that is blatantly or implicitly discriminatory, intimidating, or predatory will be reported to the Office of
Student Conduct and/or the UCSD Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination.

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact the UCSD Basic Needs Center or the Triton Food Pantry.

Course Outline:

Any changes to this outline will be announced on Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class 1: June 30th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Unit 1: Agricultural Production and the State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Course Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Food and Politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class 2: July 2nd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>• The Original Affluent Society?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Peasant Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3:</td>
<td>• Agriculture and the Foundation of the State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experiments in Agriculture - Researching Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• READING QUIZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit 2: Producers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4:</td>
<td>• Collective Action, Common Pool Resources, and Governing the Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Governing World Markets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Class 5: July 14th

#### Producers and Political Institutions


#### The Green Revolution


### Class 6: July 16th

#### MIDTERM EXAM

### Class 7: July 21st

#### Land Politics


#### Food (In)security - Agriculture and Conflict


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3: Consumers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Class 8:** July 23rd | • Famine and Food Aid  
  • Public Health Consequences of Food Policy  
| **Class 9:** July 28th | • Free and Fair Trade  
  • Sustainability and Globloc Consumption  
| **Class 10:** July 30th | • READING QUIZ  
  • In-Class Research Presentations |