

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHERS: Professor Keumseok (Peter) KOH, Professor Nicky Y F LAM

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• 1 individual essay (No GenAI allowed) • 1 group presentation

OBJECTIVES:

To introduce students to basic concepts, theoretical frameworks, and analysis methods related to the global food system and relevant social, cultural, environmental issues around food (production, acquisition, consumption, and disposition), health, and well-being.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

As a basic human need and right, food is at the centre of our everyday lives. In the context of globalisation, food involves a complex system encompassing population health, culture, agribusiness, and ecosystem through its production, acquisition, and consumption. Examining food from the perspectives of physical and human geography enables better awareness of what it takes to lead a healthy lifestyle and for the societies to achieve sustainable development. This course provides students with an interdisciplinary and holistic understanding of food system and environment around the world. Topics covered include global food production and trade, agribusiness, food culture and politics, genetic engineering and organic food, food security and sovereignty, healthy dietary habits, sustainable food policy, food cultures around the world, and the future of food. Students will become proficient in the use of various concepts and theories in geography to understand, compare and evaluate food-related topics enacted at different scales. A field trip will be offered to expand students' horizons on local food environment.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Introduction
- Globalization of food system
- Food production from agriculture to agribusiness
- Genetic engineering versus organic food products
- Climate change, sustainability and food system
- Food culture and politics
- Local field trip (To be determined)
- Food and healthy lifestyle
- Food security and sovereignty
- Food culture in Hong Kong and beyond
- Future of food
- Group project presentation

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Oosterveer, P., & Sonnenfeld, D. A. (2012). Food, globalization and sustainability. Routledge.
- Ackerman-Leist, P. (2013). Rebuilding the foodshed: How to create local, sustainable, and secure food systems. Chelsea Green Publishing.
- Lobell, D. B., & Burke, M. (Eds.). (2009). Climate change and food security: adapting agriculture to a warmer world (Vol. 37). Springer Science & Business Media.
- Schanbacher, W. D. (2010). The politics of food: the global conflict between food security and food sovereignty. ABC-CLIO.
- Weis, A. J., & Weis, T. (2007). The global food economy: The battle for the future of farming. Zed Books.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	understand geographical distribution and methods of food production, acquisition, consumption, and cross-border trade at local, regional, and global scales		✓	✓	✓			Essay, group presentation & exam
2	acquire an understanding of the complex interplay among food system, society, and environment	✓		✓	✓			Essay, group presentation & exam
3	recognise the importance of food security, sustainable food system and population health		✓			✓	✓	Essay, group presentation & exam
4	apply the acquired knowledge (in conjunction with a range of academic skills) to propose a sustainable food system for the future	✓		✓		✓	✓	Essay & exam
5	evaluate environmental and societal impacts of different food production and consumption methods	✓		✓			✓	Group presentation & exam

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.