



FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

Department Sociology
College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 12/4/23
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Current Course Prefix and Number SYG 3244

Current Course Title
Sociology of Food

Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.

Change title to:

Change prefix

From: _____ To: _____

Change course number

From: _____ To: _____

Change credits*

From: _____ To: _____

Change grading

From: _____ To: _____

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**

Add Remove

Change General Education Requirements***

Add Remove

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.

**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.

***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Change description to:

This course examines the relationship between our individual food choices and the larger social, cultural, economic, and political forces that shape the global food system.

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes: Fall 2024

Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Phillip Hough/phough2@fau.edu/561-297-3270

Approved by

Department Chair Ann Branaman

College Curriculum Chair [Signature]

College Dean [Signature]

UUPC Chair Korey Sorge

Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Mcroff

UFS President _____

Provost _____

Date

11/6/23

11/3/23

11/14/23

12/4/23

12/4/23

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Florida Atlantic University
Sociology Department
SYG 3244-001 (CRN 15415)
SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD

In-Person Lecture (General Classroom South-GS Rm 109)
Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30 – 1:50 PM
3 credits – Spring 2024

Prof. Phillip A. Hough

Office: Culture & Society Bldg. (CU) 258, Boca Campus

Office Hours: Wed. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Telephone: 561-297-0163; Email: phough2@fau.edu

GTA: [Trey Santorine](#), asantorine2021@fau.edu

Office Hours by Appointment



Course Description

This course examines the relationship between our individual food choices and the larger social, cultural, economic, and political forces that shape the global food system.

Instructional Method

This class is designed as “in-person lecture” format. Students are expected to attend all classes in-person in the classroom during scheduled class times.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

- a. Prerequisites: No prerequisites required
- b. Requirements met: This course counts towards the sociology major or minor

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

- a. Students will become familiar with the key concepts and theoretical approaches developed by sociologists to analyze our contemporary food system
- b. Students will use sociological concepts to understand dynamics of production, exchange and consumption of two particular food industries: tomatoes and coffee
- c. Students will learn about the relationship between food, health, obesity, and movements for food justice
- d. Students will become familiar with the modern food justice movement and alternatives to the contemporary global capitalist food regime
- e. Students will learn about the role of students in the food justice movement

Course Evaluation Method

- a. **Attendance:** Students will be expected to attend each scheduled class time in-person. Students will be excused for absences for any university-approved reasons, including for religious observation as well as required participation in university activities (like athletics), civic responsibilities (jury duty, called to testify), and military duty. After each class, the professor will enter a “1” or “0” for your attendance for that day in the Canvas

grade sheet. Students with a university-approved absence will receive a “1”. The total attendance grade will be calculated at the end of the semester as a percentage of classes attended/scheduled [10%];

- b. **Class Participation**: This course is reading-intensive and discussion-intensive. Students are expected to complete the course readings, attend each class, and regularly contribute to class discussions in order to obtain a high participation grade. Students can also contribute to their participation grade by communicating regularly with the professor and/or GTA via email, office hour visits, and conversations before and after class. Participation grades will be posted on Canvas at the end of the semester [10%];
- c. **Four Take-Home Essay Assignments**: Students will be expected to complete three take-home essay assignments. These assignments are short-answer essays that are based on the course readings and lectures. The questions are designed to evaluate student comprehension of the main concepts discussed in the readings and lectures. The guidelines for each essay assignment will be posted to the Canvas site and students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the short-essay questions and bring any of their questions to class prior to submitting them [15 percentage points for each assignment, totaling 60%];
- d. **Final Paper (Due 4/27)**: Students will write a basic reflexive research paper that applies concepts and theories discussed in class to their work experiences. Specific guidelines for this final paper will be posted on the course’s Canvas site. Completed papers must be uploaded to the Canvas site by 5:00 PM. Students are permitted to turn-in their papers prior to the deadline, but no late papers will be accepted unless due to an unforeseen and university-approved event (ex. Family emergency, illness, etc.) [20%]

Summary of Course Grading and Course Grading Scale

Attendance	[10%]
Class Participation	[10%]
Four Take-Home Essay Exams	[60%]
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>[20%]</u>
	100%

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59

Policy on Makeup Tests, Late Work, and Incompletes (if applicable)

Students will not be penalized for absences or late work due to participation in University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities or for participation in a religious observance. Any student that misses work due to these university-approved excuses should email the professor and the GTA beforehand to find an alternative due date or make-up test/assignment. Late work or absences due to sickness or other unexpected circumstances should also be explained to the professor and GTA via email.

Classroom Etiquette Policy

During scheduled class times, students are expected to come prepared to discuss the course readings and class topics, to respect the diversity of opinions, backgrounds, and perspectives of fellow students, and to refrain from unnecessary disruptive behavior. The goal is to establish the classroom as a “safe space” for critical intellectual inquiry, academic and intellectual debate, mutual respect, and the collective search for truth and the pursuit of knowledge.

One of the objectives of this course is to facilitate critical thinking and debate around topics, theories, and concepts where disagreement is not only anticipated, but encouraged. The ability to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and respond to the professor and other students civilly are the keystones of the academic experience. In this course, the professor will provide instruction in an objective manner and will remain open to a wide variety of viewpoints, so long as those viewpoints are evidence-based and presented in a respectful way. During class, the professor may take positions and make statements for the sole purpose of accomplishing an academic objective or enhancing the learning environment. Additionally, the adoption of class materials for this course does not imply an endorsement of the full content of those materials or the positions of the authors of those materials. Often the professor will provide materials as a point of departure for critical thinking and debate. Students should keep in mind that the ideas presented or discussed during class may not necessarily reflect the professor’s personal beliefs or opinions on the subject matter.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Because of a new Florida Statute in 2021, the following model language is suggested for inclusion in course syllabi, at the discretion of individual faculty:

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University’s Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a

reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Required Texts/Readings

1. Barry Estabrook, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope, 3rd Edition* (Andrew McMeel 2018)
2. Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)
3. Catherine Tucker, *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections, 2nd Edition* (Routledge Press 2017)
4. Julie Guthman, *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)

All other course readings are uploaded as PDFs to our Canvas site.

Course Topical Outline

Part 1: Sociology of Food – Concepts and Approaches

(1/10) Introduction to the Course: Studying Food Sociologically?

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 1: Principles and Paradoxes in the Study of Food,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/12) Am I really what I eat? – Food and Identity Construction

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 2: Food and Identity: Fitting in and Standing Out,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/17) My Favorite Restaurant... – Experiencing Food as Spectacle

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 3: Food as Spectacle: The Hard Work of Leisure,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/19) Eww! Don’t eat that, eat this! – Food and the Social Construction of Health

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 4: Nutrition and Health: Good to Eat, Hard to Stomach,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/24) Tempting your tummy! – Food and the Ideology of Consumption

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 5: Branding and Marketing: Governing the Sovereign Consumer,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/26) Stuffed and Starved I – The Political Economy of Industrial Food

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 6: Industrialization: The High Costs of Cheap Food,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(1/31) Stuffed and Starved II – Making Food for the World

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 7: Global Food: From Everywhere and Nowhere,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(2/2) Stuffed and Starved III – Food Security as a Social Problem

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 8: Food Access: Surplus and Scarcity,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

(2/7) Are there better ways to make and eat food? – Alternatives to Capitalist Food

Amy Guptill, Denise Copelton, and Betsy Lucal, “Ch. 9: Food and Social Change: The Incremental Revolution,” in *Food & Society: Principles and Paradoxes, 3rd Edition* (Polity Press 2023)

First Assignment Due - Wednesday 2/8 by 5:00 PM

Part 2: Case Study of the Tomato Industry

(2/9) The Agro-Ecology of Tomato Production

Barry Estabrook, Introduction and pages 1-34, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope*, 3rd Edition (Andrew McMeel 2018)

(2/14) Worker Experiences in Florida's Tomato Fields: Chemical Warfare, Slave Labor

Barry Estabrook, Pages 35-94, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope*, 3rd Edition (Andrew McMeel 2018)

(2/16) Class Struggles in the Tomato Supply Chain: The Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Barry Estabrook, Pages 95-136, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope*, 3rd Edition (Andrew McMeel 2018)

(2/21) The CIW's Fair Food Program: Hope for a Healthier Food System

Barry Estabrook, Pages 137-169, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope*, 3rd Edition (Andrew McMeel 2018)

Begin Watching Film: "Food Chains" (Dir. Sanjay Rawal 2014)

(2/23) Rethinking the Political Economy of Capitalist Agriculture

Barry Estabrook, Pages 171-201, *Tomatoland: From Harvest of Shame to Harvest of Hope*, 3rd Edition (Andrew McMeel 2018)

Fair Food Program, *2021 Report* (Fair Food Standards Council 2021)

Finish Watching Film/Discussion: "Food Chains" (Dir. Sanjay Rawal 2014)

Second Assignment Due - Friday 2/24 by 5:00 PM

Part 3: Case Study of the Coffee Industry

(2/28) The Rise of Coffee as a Global Commodity

Catherine Tucker, "Part 1: Coffee Culture, Social Life, and Global History," in *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections*, 2nd Edition (Routledge Press 2017)

(3/2) The Politics of Coffee

Catherine Tucker, "Part 2: Accolades and Antipathies: Coffee Controversies Through Time," in *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections*, 2nd Edition (Routledge Press 2017)

**** (3/7) & (3/9) SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES ****

(3/14) The Social Ecology of Coffee Production

Catherine Tucker, "Part 3: Coffee Production and Processing," in *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections*, 2nd Edition (Routledge Press 2017)

- (3/16) Understanding Coffee Markets and Alternative Coffee Systems**
Catherine Tucker, “Part 4: Markets and the Modern World System,” in *Coffee Culture: Local Experiences, Global Connections, 2nd Edition* (Routledge Press 2017)
- (3/21) Analyzing the Social Dynamics of “Third Wave Coffee” Consumption**
Watching Part of Film: “Cup of Culture” (Dir. Jacob Phillips 2017)
- (3/23) Understanding the Social Dynamics of Coffee Production**
Watching Part of Film: “Connected by Coffee” (Dir. Aaron Dennis 2014)

Third Assignment Due - Friday 3/24 by 5:00 PM

Part 4: Rethinking the Politics of Food and Obesity

- (3/28) Is obesity a social problem?**
Julie Guthman, Chapters 2-3, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- (3/30) Does your neighborhood make you fat?**
Julie Guthman, Chapter 4, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- (4/4) Does eating (too much) make you fat?**
Julie Guthman, Chapter 5, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- (4/6) Does farm policy make you fat?**
Julie Guthman, Chapter 6, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- (4/11) Will fresh, local, organic food make you thin?**
Julie Guthman, Chapter 7, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- Begin Watching Film: “Fed Up” (Dir: Stephanie Soechtig, 2014)
- (4/13) What’s capitalism got to do with it?**
Julie Guthman, Chapter 8, in *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism* (University of California Press 2011)
- Finish Watching Film/Discussion: “Fed Up” (Dir: Stephanie Soechtig, 2014)

Fourth Assignment Due - Friday (4/14) by 5:00 PM

Part 5: Towards a Fair Food Movement

(4/18) The Food Justice Movement in the US

Joshua Sbicca, "Introduction," *Food Justice Now!: Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle* (University of Minnesota Press 2018)

(4/20) Student Activism and Solidarity Politics in the Food Justice Movement

Joshua Sbicca, "Notes on the Future of Food Justice," *Food Justice Now!: Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle* (University of Minnesota Press 2018)

(4/27) * Final Papers Due - Thursday 4/27 at 10:30. Deadline: by 5:00 PM*