AGRI 270 / IE 270
WORLD INTERDEPENDENCE:
POPULATION AND FOOD
Spring 2014

General:
3 Credits, Traditional Grading Only, No Prerequisites
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., Room A205 Clark Building

Instructor:
Dr Gregory Graff
Assoc Professor, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
gregory.graff@colostate.edu
B328 Clark Building
970-491-4028 (office phone)
Office hours: Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM

Teaching Assistant:
Maryam Tabatabaei
Ph.D. student, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics
mtab@lamar.colostate.edu
B307 Clark
Office hours: Tuesday 11:00 AM -12:00 NOON

Course Objectives:
1. To understand the patterns and causes of change in human population and food production and consumption throughout the world community of nations.
2. To understand world economic interdependence and how it shapes population and food issues.
3. To understand cultural pluralism in the world and appreciate the problems and opportunities created by a world community of nations.
4. To understand the physical, scientific principles underlying food production and strategies for improving the world food supply.
5. To provide learning experiences to improve skills in reading, literature search, critical thinking, and writing.
6. To provide an opportunity to learn about the local economic and food situation through service learning at a community food service such as the Food Bank of Larimer Country.

Organization and Requirements:

1. Grading
   Attendance
   Quizzes: 6 @ 2.5% each
   Exam I (midterm, in class)
   Exam II (during finals week)
   Four Short Assignments
   Term Paper or Service Learning project
   Total
   5%
   15%
   15%
   25%
   20%
   20%
   100%

2. Attendance: It is important that you attend regularly because most topics will be covered in a single session, discussion will be important to understanding, and there will be no opportunity for review in succeeding classes.
Guest speakers may not provide handout summaries of their remarks. Media and case study presentations will be a rich source of knowledge and perspective building, and contents of these classroom experiences will also be included in quizzes and exams. **Attendance will be taken occasionally in order to assess participation.**

3. **Readings:** There is no text for this course. Assigned readings can be found on the course’s RamCT site. Contents of all assigned reading will be included in quizzes and on exams. Students will choose four of the academic readings to which they will respond in the four Response Papers writing assignments (see below.)

4. **Quizzes:** On Fridays there will be a brief in-class quiz of about 10 questions; the purposes of the quizzes are to introduce you to the types of questions you will see on exams and to encourage you to keep current on class notes and readings.

5. **Examinations:** There are two exams, a midterm and a final. The midterm consists of approximately 40 questions and the final consists of approximately 60 questions. Questions are multiple-choice and relate to lectures, readings, guest speaker presentations, films, and case studies. There will not be an opportunity to make-up the midterm; if the midterm is missed due to an acceptable excuse, then the final will count for the full exam portion of the grade (i.e. 40 percent).

6. **Writing Assignments:** All writing for this course is done in individual assignments, not group assignments.

   a. **Response Papers:** Each student is assigned four (4) one page, typed, response papers, each based on one of the primary peer-reviewed scholarly article readings, reports, or case studies of your choice, those marked with a (p) or a (c), not the assigned news articles or case studies, those marked with an (n). One response paper is due at the end of each four-week period on Friday at 5:00 PM (noted in the schedule). Details of the response paper assignment will be covered in the *College Writing Workshop*. The objective of the response paper is to respond critically to one of the readings assigned during the prior four weeks.

   All four response papers will initially be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory as to whether they meet the criteria for the assignment and are on time. This will account for a portion of the reaction papers grade (equal to 12% of course grade). The entire class will receive general feedback about the response papers, and *individual feedback will be available in office hours upon request*. In the final week of class, you will choose one of your four Response Papers to revise and resubmit for grading. That paper will be graded in detail and will constitute the rest of the course grade allocated to the reaction papers (equal to 8% of course grade). The response paper assignments make up a total of 20% of the course grade.

   b. **Term Paper:** Please see Term Paper assignment sheet for details. Deadlines for the term paper are:

   - *College Writing Workshop:* In class on the second Friday of the semester. Workshop attendance required for all students.
   - *Term paper topic:* Due second Monday in March.
   - *Annotated references:* Due last Friday in March.
   - *TERM PAPER DUE* in the Peer Review Workshop held in class on last Friday in April. Workshop attendance is required for all students submitting term paper; those doing Service Learning option are excused.
   - *Final revised draft of term paper:* Due in class on the second-to-last Friday of the semester. Submit in hard copy in the following order: (1) final revised version on top, (2) peer review worksheet from the Peer Review Workshop in between, and (3) previous version that was submitted and reviewed at the Peer Review Workshop on the bottom, all three stapled together.

   c. **Service Learning Option:** The service learning opportunity will be explained during the first week of class. Those who decide to take advantage of this opportunity will be required to establish an agreement with the designated volunteer coordinator or liaison person at an approved local food assistance program (including food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, or shelters) and inform Professor Graff about your commitment to that organization.
If you are interested in volunteering at another organization, that is great, but you will need to get prior approval from Prof. Graff before you make your volunteer commitment. Credit cannot be given for unapproved volunteer work.

Pre-approved volunteer programs include the food assistance programs of the following organizations:

- Salvation Army, Food Box Program ([http://salvationarmyfortcollins.org/social-services/food-help](http://salvationarmyfortcollins.org/social-services/food-help))
- Fort Collins Rescue Mission ([https://www.fortcollinsrescuemission.org/volunteer-to-serve](https://www.fortcollinsrescuemission.org/volunteer-to-serve))
- Harvest Farm ([http://www.harvestfarm.net/volunteer/index.php](http://www.harvestfarm.net/volunteer/index.php))
- FoCo Café ([http://foccoafe.org/](http://foccoafe.org/))

Students who elect this activity will not write the term paper. The following requirements must be met instead:

- **Written commitment**: Due on Friday of the second week of class, please provide me with a written indication of the commitment you are making to a volunteer program, detailing the position or activity (two sentences), planned schedule, and contact individual at the organization, and their contact information (phone and email)
- **Regular participation for at least one hour each week, for 14 weeks**: Beginning no later than the third week of the semester, participation must continue through the last week of regular classes. If the participant misses the agreed schedule twice, the service learning experience will not be counted for credit.
- **Service learning report**: In lieu of the term paper, a two-page, thoughtful report of what was done, what was learned, and how it relates to this class will be due and you may have a chance to make a short oral presentation to the class during the last week about your service learning. The report should be written to explain your volunteer experience to your fellow students.

Students are encouraged to bring the service learning experience to the classroom through comments and questions during class.

**d. Late Assignment Penalties**: Papers submitted late will receive a **10 percent penalty per day late** (1 day late = -10%, 2 days late = -20%, etc). Papers submitted more than one week late will not be graded and a score of zero will be recorded.

**e. Cheating and Plagiarism**: Cheating on examinations and plagiarism in papers are not acceptable and will result in no credit for the examination or assignment. When plagiarism is suspected, papers may be checked with one of several internet plagiarism detection programs.
### Class Schedule: Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>lecture</td>
<td>Course introduction and orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>“Six Billion and Beyond”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>lecture</td>
<td>Global food security: Part I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Global food security: Part II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>workshop</td>
<td>College Writing Workshop; includes introduction to all writing assignments</td>
<td><strong>Attendance required for all students. We will be discussing writing resources at CSU as well as all writing assignments: the response papers, the term papers, and the service learning reports.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>“A Place at the Table”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Guest lecture</td>
<td><strong>Prof. Andy Seidl</strong> “Scarcity and allocation: the view of Economics”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>Guest lecture</td>
<td><strong>Amy Pezzani</strong>, Executive Director, Food Bank for Larimer County “Food security in America”</td>
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#### PART 1. THE PROBLEM: population growth and food security

**Fri 1/24**

   - “The 9 billion-people question”, pages 3-5
   - “How much is enough?” pages 5-8.

**Mon 1/27**


**Wed 1/29**


**Fri 1/31**

   - “Summary” on pages v-vi
   - “Household Food Security” pages 2-21 (look for how residents of CO are doing)
2. *Map the Meal Gap*: Food Insecurity in your County, [http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx](http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx) On this interactive web page, investigate food security in Larimer County or in your home county. Also, can find the worst county in the U.S. in terms of food security? Which is it?

**Mon 2/3**

**Wed 2/5**

1. Adam Smith, Chapter I "Of the Division of Labor"

**Fri 2/7**

1. **RESPONSE PAPER 1 DUE**
### PART 2. THE DEMAND SIDE: so many mouths to feed

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2/14</td>
<td>film</td>
<td>&quot;The Population Paradox&quot;</td>
<td>no reading assigned for today</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2/26</td>
<td>Guest lecture</td>
<td>Keith Schneller, Director Agricultural Trade Office for USDA in Shanghai, China</td>
<td>no reading assigned for today</td>
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**RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE**
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3/5</td>
<td></td>
<td>and review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 3/7</td>
<td>exam</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM given in class</td>
<td>EXAM I</td>
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**PART 3. THE SUPPLY SIDE: what it takes to produce enough food**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
  - "1. Introduction" (pages 1-7).  
  - "2. Sub-Saharan Africa" (pages 8-10), and  
| Fri 3/14 | film   | “History’s Harvest” | no reading assigned for today |
| Mon 3/17 |       |            | TERM PAPER TOPIC DUE |
| Fri 3/28 | film   | “Land of Plenty; Land of Want” | no reading assigned for today |
| Fri 4/4  | case studies | Soil fertility | 1. Case 8-1 “Civil Society Strategy to Fight Soil Degradation in Peru”: read exec summary  
  2. Case 8-2 “Incentives for Soil Conservation in Peru”: read exec summary |
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| Fri 4/11 | case studies | Irrigation | 1. Case 7-5 “Managing Drought Risks in the Low-Rainfall Areas of the Middle East and North Africa,” Peter Hazell: read exec summary  
2. Case 8-4 “Allocating Irrigation Water in Egypt,” Birgitte Gersfelt: read exec summary | RESPONSE PAPER 4 DUE |
• “No easy fix,” pages 8-11  
• “Doing more with less,” pages 11-14.  
• “Our daily bread,” page 13. | QUIZ 6 |

**PART 4. SEEKING SOLUTIONS: challenges to sustainably balancing global supply and demand**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4/25</td>
<td>work shop</td>
<td>In class Peer Review of your term paper</td>
<td>Attendance required for all students - bring a hard copy of your term paper or service learning report to class with you.</td>
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</table>
2. “The democracy bug is fitfully catching on” The Economist, July 24th 2010: read pages 47-48 |  
| Fri 5/2 | case studies | Ag policies and food aid | 1. Case 4-3 “Niger’s Famine and the Role of Food Aid,” Alexandra Lewin: read exec summary  
2. Case 6-8 “Food Price Stabilization Policies in a Globalizing World,” Shahidur Rashid: read exec summary | REVISED TERM PAPER DUE; SERVICE LEARNING REPORT DUE |
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<td><strong>RESPONSE PAPER REVISION DUE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5/14</td>
<td>Exam 7:30-9:30pm</td>
<td>final exam will be given in the same room the class has been meeting in all semester</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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