



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## **SYLLABUS: FDSCTE 4597.02**

### **FOOD CONTROVERSIES**

#### **Instructor**

Instructor: Mary Kay Pohlschneider, PhD

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Phone number: 614-292-3867

Office hours: email to schedule meeting either in person or using “Conferences” on Canvas

#### **Course description**

By drawing upon multiple disciplines, Issues of the Contemporary World coursework provides a capstone experience that helps students enrich their experiences of the increasingly global nature of the contemporary world.

#### **Course learning outcomes**

##### **In this class we will:**

- Explore the issues surrounding the food supply and the societal complexities to those issues
- Discuss the validity of commonly used resources
- Communicate personal opinions using logic and facts, not hype and emotions

##### **You can expect:**

- Familiarity with major issues regarding food that face today's society and why there are controversies
- Experience evaluating information using science and logic
- Practice forming and communicating personal opinions and supporting those opinions with sound information

##### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.

- Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between information derived from different disciplines by interacting with students from different majors.
- Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.

## Course materials

### Required

This semester I will ask that you either watch or read two of the following. The first 3 videos will be available through the OSU Secured Media site.

Simply go to the link, sign in with your OSU credentials and you will be able to view these documentaries.

The books are popular press books and are available at many libraries as well as for purchase online (used copies can be found for about \$6)

#### Documentaries:

**King Corn:** Aaron Woolf, Kurt Ellis, and Ian Cheney, Mosaic Films Incorporated 2007

**Life And Debt:** Produced and Directed by Stephanie Black 2001

**Food Stamped:** Shira and Yova Potash 2009

**Food Fight:** directed by Chris Taylor, produced by Mark Rosen 2012 available to rent on Amazon or YouTube (search Food Fight documentary full length)

#### Books:

**Animal Vegetable Miracle** by Barbra Kingsolver 2007 HarperCollins New York

**The Good Food Revolution** by Will Allen with Charles Wilson 2012 Gotham New York

## Course technology

### Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Canvas

### Technology skills useful for this specific course

- Recording, editing, and uploading video

### Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Useful but not required: Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed or phone video capability

## Grades

Assignment or category	Points
Syllabus Quiz (must be completed to open the course info)	15
Wholesome food initial reflection	35
Information discovery (news and corresponding journal article) (3 x 50 points each)	150
Topic discussions (6 topics; 50 points each)	300
Topic position reflections (paper or video) (5 x 20 points each)	100
Movie and/or book reflections (2 x 100 points each)	200
Wholesome Food position paper	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>

See course schedule, below, for specific due dates and discussion weeks.

## Due Dates and Late Penalties

Due dates for individual assignments will be Sundays at 11:59 pm (Columbus time) unless otherwise noted. **ALL** assignments must be submitted through Canvas. Unless there is an unforeseen catastrophe with the system I will not accept any work through email. **It is your responsibility to make sure your assignment is submitted properly.** There will be a 50% point deduction for work submitted up to 48 hours after the deadline. Past that point **late assignments will not be graded.** Emergencies such as hospitalizations or death in the family will be evaluated on an individual basis. Travel for school or work WILL NOT be excused unless it is unforeseen. Documentation of the urgency will need to be submitted.

**Topic discussions will be open 2 weeks and close on Fridays.** You are encouraged to create a dialog rather than just posting questions and your answers. Discussion boards will not be closed, but any comments made after Friday 11:59 pm will not be counted toward your grade.

## Grading scale

93–100: A	87–89.9: B+	77–79.9: C+	67 –69.9: D+
90–92.9: A-	83–86.9: B	73–76.9: C	60 –66.9: D
	80–82.9: B-	70 –72.9: C-	Below 60: E

## Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

### Grading and feedback

For most assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **7 days**.

### E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**.

### Discussion board

I will be looking at the posts on the discussion boards throughout the week but I will probably not participate in your discussions. If you have specific questions or a problem with your discussion group please email me and I will address it either by email or on the discussion.

# Attendance, participation, and discussions

## Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Logging in: SEVERAL TIMES PER WEEK**  
Be sure you are logging in to the course in Canvas each week. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.
- **Participating in discussion forums: MANY TIMES PER TOPIC**  
You should view this as an on-going conversation with your classmates through the topic period. Multiple posts and back and forth dialog is encouraged. You can earn up to 50 points for each discussion. **Each question you pose is worth 8 points and each comment is worth 2 points.**

## Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Informality (including an occasional emoticon) is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For online sources, include a link.) Remember, an important part of this course is to have science and logic to defend your position, not just "They say" or "I've heard."
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Canvas discussion.

## Academic integrity policy

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([COAM Home](#))
- *Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity* ([Ten Suggestions](#))
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity* ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.htm))

## **Accommodations for accessibility**

### **Requesting accommodations**

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact me as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the Office for Disability Services at [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307) or [ods@osu.edu](mailto:ods@osu.edu) to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University.

Go to <http://ods.osu.edu> for more information.

### **Accessibility of course technology**

This online course requires use of Canvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

## Course schedule

Topics	Assignments and Deadlines
<b>Information and Course Intro</b>	Syllabus Quiz – <b>Due ASAP</b> (other material will not open until completed) Wholesome Food Reflection
<b>Labeling and Processing</b>	Discussion Topic Reflection
<b>Natural and Organic</b>	Discussion Topic Reflection First Information Discovery
<b>Diets (Fads and otherwise)</b>	Discussion Topic Reflection
<b>Sweeteners</b>	Discussion Topic Reflection Second Information Discovery
<b>Caffeine</b>	Discussion Topic Reflection Third Information Discovery
<b>Ag Trade and Food Aid</b>	Discussion Both Movie/Book Reflections
	Wholesome Food Final Paper