

125B: The Politics of Food in a Global Economy

Spring 2015, Room HSS 1330, Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 am -12:20 pm

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Office hrs	Wed: 3:00-4:30 pm	floor)	Tues: 12:30-1:30 pm
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Course Website: <https://ted.ucsd.edu/> (Search for Instructor “Naoi”). All the readings and lecture slides will be uploaded on TED.

Important Due Dates:

April 16 (Thursday): Assignment I due in class (30% of your grade): Your own research memo on the politics of agricultural protectionism in two countries of your choice from the dataset below (5-page, single-spaced text with figures you made from World Bank’s Estimates of Distortions to Agricultural Incentives, 1955-2011). See the Template for this assignment at the end of this syllabus. Open-book and open sources. You can also discuss your research with anyone. When you incorporate their insights and suggestions, make sure to acknowledge them in the memo as scholarly etiquette.

May 12 (Tuesday): Sign-up due date for voluntary presentations between May 26-June 4 (see below).

May 19 (Tuesday): In-class quiz on readings and lecture through TOPIC 6 (20% of your grade): This will be multiple choice questions on the required readings and lectures. Closed book.

May 26 – June 4: In addition to my lecture about ethical consumption, there will be a several students’ presentations of their research on the politics of food that the lecture did not cover, or, food-related activities and NGOs that they are involved in. Please sign up for it by May 12 and send me the power-point slides before the class.

June 9 (Tuesday): Assignment II due between 1:30-2:30 pm in the class (50% of your grade). Your own research memo on the politics of consumption (single-spaced, 5-page with figures and tables). Details to be announced after the Assignment I. Open-book & open sources. Early submission is allowed as long as you can submit hardcopies.

About this Course:

This course will examine the politics of food in a global economy. The first five weeks will examine the politics of food producers (farmers and food industries), and the last five weeks will examine the politics of food consumers. In addition to learning important issues in the politics of food, we will also learn the following:

Political Economy Theories and Concepts: learn key theories in political economy such as the logic of collective action, how political institutions affect public policy outcomes, tragedy of commons and various solutions to the common-pool resource problem, and how special interest groups influence policy-making process.

Scientific Literacy: develop skills to read and understand peer-reviewed articles in science and social sciences and to make evidence-based decisions in your life.

Research Skills: learn how to conduct original research and communicate the findings accurately and visually using figures and tables.

Course Outline

Part I: The Politics of Food Producers

TOPIC 1: The Politics of Agricultural Protection Around the World
TOPIC 2: Political Institutions and Agricultural Protection
TOPIC 3: Environmental Challenges to Farming and Fisheries
TOPIC 4: Politics of Famine and Hunger
TOPIC 5: Processed Food Industries

Part II: The Politics of Food Consumers

TOPIC 6: Public Health Consequences of Food Policies (1): Obesity
TOPIC 7: Public Health Consequences of Food Policies (2): GMOs
TOPIC 8: Ethical Consumption –Fair Trade, Sustainability, Animal Rights and Locally-grown Produce

Workshop I (April 14): Q and As Sessions on the Assignment I (Bring your questions & laptops)
Workshop II (May 14): Causal Inference and the Importance of Experiments

Guest Lectures

April 21: Peter Halmay on co-managed sea urchin fishery in San Diego.
April 30 or May 5: Jason Kuo (Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Department, UCSD) on Food and Drug Administration and Free Trade.
May : Ike Sharpless (Ph.D. student, Political Science Department, UCSD) on animal rights.

March 30: Overview of the Class and Explanations for Assignment I

Check out the dataset and related materials for the Assignment I:

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:21960058~pagePK:64214825~piPK:64214943~theSitePK:469382,00.html>

Scroll down the above website and click: “Core database (updated to 2011)”. You will be using this data for the Assignment I.

This link will take you to regional and country-specific reports on agricultural protectionism using the above data:

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTPROGRAMS/EXTTRADERESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:21812190~pagePK:64168182~piPK:64168060~theSitePK:544849,00.html>

Part I: The Politics of Food Producers

TOPIC 1: The Politics of Agricultural Protection Around the World

April 2, 7: The Patterns of Agricultural Protection and Various Approaches to Explaining Them

- Robert H. Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. University of California Press, 1981, pp.1-77.
- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*. Revised 2nd printing, Harvard UP, 1990, Chapters 1 and 2.
- De Gorter, Harry, and Johan Swinnen. “Political economy of agricultural policy.” *Handbook of agricultural economics* 2 (2002): 1893-1943.

Discussion Questions: Why some governments protect farmers more than others? Who shoulder the costs of agricultural protection? What are incentives of politicians in protecting farmers vs. providing cheaper food to consumers?

We will learn:

How do we measure agricultural protection across countries and across commodities?

What are governments’ objectives and the trade-offs that they face?

What are the non-institutional factors that shape the levels of protection?

Key Concepts: the logic of collective action, various measures of agricultural protectionism (tariffs, NRA, PSE, CSE etc), different government’s instruments of protection, economic vs. political efficiency

TOPIC 2: Political Institutions and Agricultural Protection

April 9: Regime Types, Electoral Systems and Agricultural Protection

- Kasara, Kimuli. "Tax me if you can: Ethnic geography, democracy, and the taxation of agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101.01 (2007): 159-172.
- Rogowski, Ronald, and Mark Andreas Kayser. "Majoritarian electoral systems and consumer power: price-level evidence from the OECD countries." *American Journal of Political Science* (2002): 526-539.
- Horiuchi, Yusaku, and Jun Saito. "Cultivating Rice and Votes: The Institutional Origins of Agricultural Protectionism in Japan." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 10.3 (2010): 425-452.

We will learn: What are the institutional factors that affect the levels of protection?
Do democracies differ from autocracies in responding to farmers' vs. consumers' demands?
Which electoral systems empower producers (farmers) over consumers?

Key Concepts: politicians' incentives in authoritarian vs. democratic systems, different types of electoral systems (majoritarian vs. proportional, single-member district vs. multi-member district systems),

April 14: Workshop on the Assignment I (Q and As Sessions)

Bring your questions and laptops!

TOPIC 3: Environmental Challenges to Farming and Fisheries

April 16: Governing the Commons **(Assignment I Due in Class)**

- Ostrom, Elinor. 1999. "Coping with tragedies of the commons." *Annual review of political science* 2.1 (1999): 493-535.
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge university press, 1990.
- Gutiérrez, Nicolás L., Ray Hilborn, and Omar Defeo. "Leadership, social capital and incentives promote successful fisheries." *Nature* 470.7334 (2011): 386-389

April 21: Guest Lecture, Peter Halmai, the Sea Urchin King & the President of San Diego Fisherman's Working Group. Plus viewing of a documentary about urchin fishing in San Diego, *Sweet, Sexy Ocean*.

Read following background articles before his guest lecture.

- About Pete Halmai: <http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/San-Diego-Magazine/June-2012/The-Urchin-King/>
- About San Diego Fisherman's Working Group: <http://www.communityfisheriesnetwork.org/SDFWG.html>

- About Pacific to Plate Legislation (Pete will be testifying on this in Sacramento): <http://asmdc.org/speaker/about/speaker-atkins-announces-pacific-to-plate-legislation-to-boost-coastal-fish-markets>

Discussion Questions: What are the common-pool resource problems and what are various solutions to the problems?

Key Concepts: tragedy of commons, common-pool resource problem, various solutions to CPR problems.

TOPIC 4: Politics of Famine and Hunger

April 23, 28

- Amartya Sen. 1999. *Development as Freedom*, Chapter 1, 7 and 9.
- Haggard, Stephan, and Marcus Noland. *Famine in North Korea: Markets, aid, and reform*. Columbia University Press, 2007. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Nunn, Nathan, and Nancy Qian. 2014. "US Food Aid and Civil Conflict." *American Economic Review*, 104(6): 1630-66.

Discussion Questions: Amartya Sen famously said: "No famine has ever taken a place in democracy". Is this true? Why do famines occur more often under autocratic rules? What are the

Key Concepts: tragedy of commons, common-pool resource problem, various solutions to CPR problems.

TOPIC 5: Processed Food Industries

April 30, May 5

- Pollan, Michael. 2006. *Omnivore's Dilemma*, Penguin. Chapters 5-7.
- Nestle, Marion. 2013. *Food politics: How the food industry influences nutrition and health*. Vol. 3. Univ of California Press, 2013. Chapters 1-4.

Discussion Questions: How do food industries influence nutrition and health of the public? What role do regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) play?

Key Concepts: regulatory capture, delegation from Congress to bureaucratic agencies, politics behind the scientific knowledge

Guest Lecture by Jason Kuo (Our TA!): TBA.

TOPIC 6: Public Health Consequences of Food Policies (1): Obesity

May 7, 12

- Popkin, Barry M., and Penny Gordon-Larsen. 2004. “The nutrition transition: worldwide obesity dynamics and their determinants.” *International journal of obesity* 28: S2-S9.
- Cutler, David M., Edward L. Glaeser, and Jesse M. Shapiro. 2003. “Why Have Americans Become More Obese?.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*: 93-118.
- Kaufman, Leslie, and Adam Karpati. 2007. “Understanding the sociocultural roots of childhood obesity: food practices among Latino families of Bushwick, Brooklyn.” *Social Science & Medicine* 64.11: 2177-2188.

Discussion Questions: What accounts for the rise of obesity around the world? What can governments do to address obesity problems?

Key Concepts: nutrition transition, energy gap model, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), variety of medical and welfare systems

May 14 Workshop II: Causal Inference and the Importance of Experiments

- Oster, Emily. 2013. *Expecting better: why the conventional pregnancy wisdom is wrong and what you really need to know*. Hachette UK, Chapter 4.
- Trochim, William, James Donnelly, and Kanika Arora. *Research Methods: The Essential Knowledge Base*. Cengage Learning, 2015. Chapters 8 and 9.

May 19: In-class, closed-book quiz on readings & lecture (through Topic 6). Multiple choices.

TOPIC 7: Public Health Consequences of Food Policies (1): GMOs

May 21: Viewing of a documentary, “The World According to Monsanto”

- Sheldon, Ian M. “Regulation of biotechnology: will we ever ‘freely’ trade GMOs?.” *European Review of Agricultural Economics* 29.1 (2002): 155-176.
- De Vendômois, Joël Spiroux, et al. “Debate on GMOs health risks after statistical findings in regulatory tests.” *International journal of biological sciences* 6.6 (2010): 590.

Discussion Questions: Who are the winners and losers of biotechnological innovation such as GMOs and how do they influence regulatory decisions by governments? What are known and unknown health risks? Why some governments regulate them heavily while others do not?

Key Concepts: genetically modified organism, regulator testing, revolving door, labeling

**TOPIC 8: Ethical Consumption –Fair Trade, Sustainability and Locally-grown Produce
May 26, June 2 & June 4**

Carpio, Carlos E., and Olga Isengildina-Massa. “Consumer willingness to pay for locally grown products: the case of South Carolina.” *Agribusiness* 25.3 (2009): 412-426.

Vermeir, Iris, and Wim Verbeke. “Sustainable food consumption: Exploring the consumer “attitude–behavioral intention” gap.” *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 19.2 (2006): 169-194.

Hainmueller, Jens, Michael J. Hiscox, and Sandra Sequeira. “Consumer Demand for the Fair Trade Label: Evidence from a Multi-Store Field Experiment.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 0 (2014).

Also listen to this NPR coverage: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2011/11/30/142935891/is-fair-trade-coffee-still-fair-if-it-comes-from-a-big-farm>

Guest Lecture by Ike Sharpless (our TA!): Animal rights

Some Students’ Presentations (Sign-up by May 12)

Discussion Questions: What is ethical consumption? Who are more likely to pay premium for being ethical than others?

Key Concepts: “Willingness to pay” research, behavior vs. preference (attitudes), price premium for ethical consumption, labeling and traceability regulation

Final research memo submission deadline: June 9 (Tuesday) between 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm in the class.