

125B: The Politics of Food in a Global Economy

Winter 2018, CENTR 216, Tues/Thurs, 12:30 pm -1:50 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. All lectures are pod-casted.

Important Due Dates and Requirements:

January 30 (Tues): 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 uploaded on TED. 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.**

(February 6 (Tues): Late Assignment I submission date. Two-third of grade penalty for lateness (e.g., A paper becomes B+, B+ paper becomes B-). We cannot accept Assignment I submitted after this date.)

March 6 (Tues): In-class quiz on readings and lecture through TOPIC 7 (20% of your grade): This will be multiple choice questions on the required readings and lectures. Closed book.

March 20 (Tues): Assignment II due between 2 pm -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). Open-book & open sources. Early submission is allowed as long as you can submit **hardcopies.**

BONUS PARTICIPATION POINTS (Up to 10 points):

10 Points: You ask good questions or make good comments regularly (about once a week).

5 Points: You ask good questions or make good comments sometimes (about once every other week)

5 Points: You volunteer to do 5-minute mini-research presentation (see below for the details).

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.

Expectations:

(1) Readings

I will assign three articles or chapters (60-100 pages) each week. Readings are available at: <https://ted.ucsd.edu/> (Search for Instructor “Naoi”). To do well on the exams (i.e., better grade than B), you must read the assigned materials carefully before the class, attend class each week, and be prepared to discuss the readings analytically and critically in your projects.

(2) Assignments I and II

They are research projects, not exams. What this means is that you can consult any source (except for Wikipedia—see (5) below) as long as you cite them.

(3) Extensions and Quiz Retake

You must have a documented reason (i.e., medical, extenuating personal circumstances, etc.) for not being able to turn in an assignment or quiz on time. You will need to bring in supporting documentation to be granted an extension or request a quiz retake.

Note that we will not accept any email submission of your essays or quizzes. We will, however, accept late final exam in our mailboxes, which are located on the third floor of the Social Sciences Building. For Assignment II, late essays will be penalized one third of a grade per day (e.g., an A- paper becomes B+ the next day) until it bottoms at C. Note that essays that are turned in after 5 pm on Friday will not be counted as turned in until Monday morning.

(4) Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Please refer to the UCSD policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes plagiarism), you will receive a letter grade of F. I reserve the right to check your essays electronically when

necessary.

(5) Wikipedia penalty

Please do not cite Wikipedia. As Michael Scott (in the TV show “The Office”) said: “Wikipedia is the best thing ever. Anyone in the world can write anything they want about any subject...you know you are getting the best possible information”. **NOT**. I will deduct one point from your projects each time you cite Wikipedia as a source.

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 (January 23): Q and As Session on the Assignment I (Bring your questions & laptops) & Mini-research presentations

TBA: Guest Lecture by Dr. Tala Al-Rousan (UCSD Public Health/UCSF) on Refugees & Public Health

Workshop II (March 1): Causal Inference and the Importance of Experiments

Workshop III (March 8): Q and As Session on the Assignment II (Bring your questions & laptops) & Mini-research presentations

January 9: 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/EXTTRADERESEARHC/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

January 11: 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 should bear 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

January 16 and 18: 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),

January 23 (Tues): Review & Workshop on the Assignment I (Q and As Session)

Bring your questions and laptops!

January 30 (Tues): DEADLINE FOR ASSIGNMENT I in Class. Staple your essays!

TOPIC 3: Environmental Challenges to Farming and Fisheries

January 25 and January 30: Governing the Commons

- 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

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

Documentary Viewing, *Sushi: The Global Catch* (2012) by Mark Hall.

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

February 6 (Tues): Late submission for Assignment I in the class. Staple your essays!

TOPIC 4: Politics of Famine and Hunger

February 1 and 6

- 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?

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

TOPIC 5: Processed Food Industries

February 8 and 13

- 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

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

February 15 and 20

- 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

TOPIC 7: Public Health Consequences of Food Policies (2): GMOs

February 22 and 27

- 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

March 1: 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.

March 6 (Tues): In-class Reading Quiz (TOPIC 1-TOPIC 7, Including Workshop II). Multiple choices & fill in blanks. Bring a pencil and an eraser.

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

March 8 (Thurs): Workshop III—Q and A session for Final research memo. Bring your questions and laptops!

TOPIC 8: Ethical Consumption –Fair Trade, Sustainability and Locally-grown Produce

March 13 & March 15

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>

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

March 20 (Tues) Final research memo submission deadline between 2pm – 2:30 pm in the class.