**The Global Food System and East Asia**

- Research Project in International Area Studies -

Seoul National University

Graduate School of International Studies

Semester I, AY 2017

* Lecture: Wednesday 09:00 – 12:00
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**Module Description**

In this seminar we examine East Asia’s position in the global food system. Do we really understand what we put in our mouths? What social, political, and economic processes underlie our food consumption? How much choice do we have in our food selection? In what ways is eating an ethical matter? Why is the organic food industry one of the fastest growing while mass production of food is increasing at the same time? Who shapes conventional ideas about food?

We will think about these issues from a set of multidisciplinary perspectives. We will consider the roles of individuals, families, communities, and groups all the way up to the global scale. We will consider both local and regional food production networks in East Asia, as well as global food networks. By the end of the semester, we will understand some of the political, social, economic, ethical and legal facets of food. We will understand how important it is to think about food using the perspectives of multiple disciplines. Besides gaining knowledge of the global food system, students will have opportunities to practice fieldwork techniques, analytic writing, and verbal presentation.

As the global food system connects all of us to major transnational processes, our own choices and actions are tied up in these problems and in potential solutions. Students will gain expertise in the problems they study, and through investigating these problem – and reflecting on classmates’ work on other problems – students will gain a broad understanding of food consumption and production in East Asia.

**Assignments and marking**

Marks will be determined as follows:

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| **Assessment** | |
| Presentations | 30% |
| Group Report | 20% |
| Participation | 20% |
| Final Essay | 30% |

* Presentation (30%): The presentations will start from week 3 or 4.
  + Each student will make presentations. The instructor will give details on the scope of the presentation topic every week. Students will make presentations based on the previous week’s topic.
* Group Report (20%): There is a group project for this course. Together with your classmates you will prepare a report. You will present the report in a later session of the class. Your report should cover “local seed movements” in a set of countries. The countries to be covered will be determined in class and each team member will be responsible for one country. You will research the history and structure of the seed industry in your countries, and conduct further research into contemporary movements to preserve and use local seeds. This assignment involves exploring the meaning of “local” and the motivations for such movements.
* Term Essay (30%): You can choose one of the questions from the syllabus. Or you can have consultation in order to consider your own research topic with the instructor in advance. The essay should be no more than 3,000 words (Chicago manual style, 15th edition; check ch 16 and 17) and is due in ***week 14*** (submit the hardcopy at the lecture time). **Early submission is also welcome**.

*The penalty for a late assignment is 3 points per day regardless of the reason. Please check the due date and schedule your research and writing in advance.*

*Early submission is always welcome.*

• Participation (20%): Students should **actively** participate in discussions.

• Exams: no in-class mid-term and no final exam

***Plagiarism*** *will be taken seriously as immoral conduct. Any direct duplication of more than two sentences from the internet/books/journal and newspaper articles will be considered plagiarism. If the instructor detects plagiarism in your essay, you will get 0 points. Any attempt to cover up plagiarism (ex, changing a few words from other writers’ sentences will be also considered as plagiarism) will lead to low points for your assignment.*

**Module Outline**

**PART I**

**Understanding of the Global Food System:**

**Nutritional and Cultural Perspectives**

**Week 1 (March 8): Introduction of the seminar – Why is Food Political?**

* Module Introduction
* Group Gathering

**Week 2 (March 15): Perceptions of the Nutritional Value of Food**

* Three perspectives

1) Media 2) Scientific 3) Grandmother’s perspective

Reading

Marion Nestle’s *Food* Politics: Part One

* Students’ investigation of the Nutritional Value of Food: What we have learned in regard to food and nutrition

1. One tip from your own family
2. One tip from media
3. One tip from science
4. One tip from school

***🡪 Prepare a short presentation.***

**PART II**

**Understanding of the Global Food System:**

**Political and International Perspectives**

**Week 3 (March 22): Food Security and East Asia**

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| **Questions**   1. How does East Asia tackle food security? 2. What focus does each country have? 3. What should be the essential(main) focus on food security? 4. Why is food security important? |

Reading

Peter Andree’s *Globalization and Food Sovereignty*: Introduction and Ch.1

Recommended websites

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/the-secret-to-east-asia-food-security/>

World Economic Forum “The secret to food security in East Asia”

<https://www.adb.org/publications/food-security-asia-and-pacific>

Asian Development Bank “Food Security in Asia and Pacific”

[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4624e.pdf>)

Food and Agriculture Organization “Regional Overview of Food

Insecurity: Asia and Pacific”

**Week 4 (March 29): Hunger**

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| **Questions**   1. Why does hunger exist in a world where food is plentiful? 2. Why do famines happen? 3. How have we tried to overcome hunger? 4. What actors are involved in the fight against hunger? Which is the most effective? 5. What would be your suggestion for overcoming global hunger? 6. Do hungry nations need other countries’ help? If so, how? If not, why not? |

Readings

*Feed the Future: Growing Innovation, Harvesting Results*. June 2013.

Ziegler, Jean. *Betting on Famine.* Part 3 and 4. New Press (2013).

Recommend Readings

Paarlberg, Robert. “The Politics of Famine.” *Food Politics*. Oxford University Press. 2010.

Collier, Paul. “The Politics of Hunger,” *Foreign Affairs* 87 (2008).

UN FAO, “The State of Food Insecurity in the World” (2013).

Davis, Mike, “India: The Modernization of Poverty,” in *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World* (London: Verso, 2002).

Check the website, <http://www.wfp.org/crisis/horn-of-africa>

Watch video, *Hunger Planet* (youtube or horn-of-africa website).

**Week 5 (April 5): Agricultural land reform in East Asia**

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| **Questions**   1. Did agricultural land reform in postwar Japan succeed? 2. What is the agrarian reform law of 1950 in China? 3. What is the outcome of land reform under the U.S. military occupation in South Korea? Who received benefits and who didn’t? |

Inhan, Kim. “Land Reform in South Korea under the U.S.

Military Occupation, 1945–1948” *Journal of Cold War Studies*. 2016.

Kawan, Shigeto. “Economic Significance of the Land Reform in Japan.” *The Developing Economies.* 1965.

**Week 6 (April 12): Agricultural land investment and East Asia**

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| **Questions**   1. What are land grabs? 2. Why do they happen? 3. Who is purchasing agricultural land? (focusing on East Asia) |

Readings

Check Olivier De Schutter’s Land rights:

<http://www.srfood.org/en/land-rights>

🡪 “The SR's Contribution to the workshop of the Open Ended Working Group on principles for responsible agricultural investments.”

🡪 “**Responsibly Destroying the World’s Peasantry**.”

🡪 "**Access to Land and the Right to Food**."

Hallam, David. Foreign Investment in Developing Country Agriculture. 2009. OECD.

<http://www.oecd.org/investment/globalforum/44231828.pdf>

Sindayigaya, Willy. Foreign Investments in Agriculture - “Land Grabbing.” <http://www.entwicklungshilfe3.de/media/Bilder_ZSE/UEber_Uns_Dateien/Grundlagentexte/Land_grab_article.pdf>

Land Grabbing: Perspectives from East and Southeast Asia: Conference papers No.3 and 4 (Japan and China)

<https://www.iss.nl/research/research_programmes/political_economy_of_resources_environment_and_population_per/networks/land_deal_politics_ldpi/conferences/land_grabbing_perspectives_from_east_and_southeast_asia/>

**PART III**

**Understanding of the Global Food System:**

**Technological and Economic Perspectives**

**Week 7 (April 19): Meat Politics**

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| **Questions**   1. What determines the quality of meat? 2. What meat is the most consumed in East Asia? Why? 3. What invisible parts are we missing in the meat production process? 4. Why are some people or countries worried about Mad Cow Disease? |

Basic information on Mad Cow Disease (BSE)

Read an article, <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/12/health/beef-recall-mad-cow-disease/>

<http://www.bseinfo.org/MapsofBSECases.aspx>

Japan, S Korea, Singapore, Taiwan ban US beef (December 24, 2003)

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/12/24/1072239712874.html?from=storyrhs>

South Korea Halts Customs Clearance of U.S. Beef (Apr 25, 2012)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-24/s-korea-to-halt-customs-clearance-of-u-s-beef-imports.html>

Peter Singer and Jim Mason’s *The Ethics of What We Eat*: Part 1

Philip Lymbery’s *Farmageddon*: Part 1-2.

Schneider, Mindi. “Wasting the rural: Meat, manure, and the politics of agro-industrialization in contemporary China.” Geoforum, January 2017, Vol.78, pp.89-97.

**Week 8 (April 26): Organic farming vs local farming in East Asia**

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| **Questions**   1. What does organic mean? What types of food can be organic, and how big is the difference between organic and non-organic? 2. What are the benefits of organic food for health, the environment, and farmers’ lives, and how certain are we that these benefits are real? 3. How do organic foods get certified? 4. Why is organic food always so expensive? 5. Do we need organic food? |

Readings

F.H. King, *Farmers of Forty Centuries: Organic Farming in China, Korea, and Japan* (1911), Ch. I, II, and XVI.

D. Rigby and D. Caceres, “Organic Farming and the Sustainability of Agricultural Systems,” *Agricultural Systems* 68 (2001), 21-40.

Hole D.G., and A. J. Perkins et al. “Does Organic Farming Benefit Biodiversity?” *Biological Conservation* 122 (2005), 113-130.

Recommended readings

McWilliams, James E. *Just Food: Where Locavores Get It Wrong and How We Can Truly Eat Responsibly* (Back Bay Books 2010), 17-51.

Singer and Mason, *The Ethics of What We Eat: Why our Food Choices Matter* (Emmaus 2006), 197-222.

**Week 9 (May 3): Public Holiday**

**Week 10 (May 10): Industrialization of agriculture: Who benefits?**

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| **Questions**   1. How has technological advancement changed rice agriculture? 2. How has technological advancement changed cultivation of cotton? 3. What are the social implications of the industrialization of agriculture? 4. Did agricultural technology contribute to East Asia? How? 5. What makes the changes in Cuba interesting? |

Readings

Shiva, Vandana. *Stolen Harvest* (South End Press, 2000), 5-20.

Evenson, R.E., and D. Gollin. “Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution.” *Science* 300 (2003): 758-762.

International Socialist Review Issue 11, Spring 2000

Cuba: The Crisis of State Capitalism

<http://www.isreview.org/issues/11/cuba_crisis.shtml>

How Can Cuba’s Sustainable Agriculture Survive the Peace? <http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/node/554>

Can Cuba Recover from its De-Industrialization? I. Characteristics and Causes

<http://thecubaneconomy.com/articles/2011/09/can-cuba-recover-from-its-de-industrialization-i-characteristics-and-causes/>

**Week 11 (May 17): Food and intellectual property rights**

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| **Questions**   1. Who are the major owners of seed patents? How did they obtain those patents? 2. When did companies begin patenting seed varieties? Why? 3. What are the implications of productive seeds for biodiversity? 4. What risks do farmers take when buying patented seeds? 5. What types of crops are relatively less dependent on companies for obtaining seeds? 6. How is the GM industry organized in East Asia? |

Readings

O’Donnell, Ryan W. et al. (2008) *Intellectual Property in the Food Technology Industry.*

[Film] Peled, Micha X. (2011) *Bitter Seeds* (CL Multimedia)

[Film] Marie-Monique, Robin (2008) *The World According to Monsanto* (Youtube)

**Week 12 (May 24): Water/Beverage: Who owns water?**

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| **Questions**   1. Why has lack of water become a major issue? 2. What is the best way for all of us to access water? 3. Why are there increasing conflicts over water between big companies and local communities in certain countries (ex. Bolivia)? 4. Why do Mexicans drink more Coke than water? 5. Is water a public good? Case studies of China, Japan, and South Korea |

Check the website, <http://www.globalwaterforum.org/>

Water Privatization Case Study: Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Shiva, Vandana, *Water wars: privatization, pollution and profit*

Let’s analyze this article, <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/4/water-managementprivatizationworldbankgroupifc.html>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/07/what-china-s-new-approach-to-water-means-for-business/>

World Economic Forum“How should business react to China's water crisis?”

🡪 Find a related research (book, journal article, and online research).

**Week 13 (May 31): Antibiotics in livestock and East Asia**

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| **Questions**   1. What antibiotics are used in livestock? 2. Why are antibiotics used in livestock production? 3. How much do we use? 4. What regulations on antibiotic use exist? 5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of antibiotic use? 6. Why do countries have different regulations? 7. Who makes these antibiotics? 8. What political consideration underlie this issue? |

Animal Health Institute. “The Antibiotic Ban in Denmark: A Case Study on Politically Driven Bans.” Animal Health Institute Issues and Advocacy. Last modified December 31, 2015. <http://www.ahi.org/issues-advocacy/animal-antibiotics/the-antibiotic-ban-in-denmark-a-case-study-on-politically-driven-bans/>

Dibner, Julia and James Richards. “Antibiotic Growth Promoters in Agriculture: History and Mode of Action.” Poultry Science 84, no. 4 (May 2005): 634-43.

Nowakowski, Kelsey. “Should We Continue to Feed Antibiotics to Livestock?” National Geographic, February 13, 2015. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/02/150213-antibiotic-resistance-animals-ngfood/>

OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate. “Global Antimicrobial Use in the Livestock Sector.” Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets, February 26, 2015.

**Week 14 (June 7): Presentations and Discussion**

**Week 15 (June 14): Wrapping up**

**Appendix I**

When your group submits the Group Report:

Please submit the minutes.

* What you **should** include in the minutes

1) When your group met

2) Who attended the meeting

3) How you worked as a group

4) How your group divided your jobs

a. presentation materials

b. who was the chief /deputy editor of the group report

c. who wrote which parts?

* Intro. by Yoshi
* Ch 1. by Terence
* Ch 2. by Jamie
* Ch 3. by Sooyeon