THE POLITICS OF FOOD: PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS AND CITIZENSHIP
POSC 222, Spring 2014
TTh 3:10-4:55
Willis 203

Prof. Patricia Cavanaugh
Office: 408 Willis Hall
pcavanau@carleton.edu

Office Hours:  Monday 2:00-3:15
Thursday 11:00-1:00
By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although what we eat everyday is familiar and biologically intimate, it is also part of a complex political system. In this course we will learn about and reflect upon the political aspects of food in the U.S. Topics include food production history, the shape of the food industry, alternative producers, food policy, and environmental problems. This is a survey course intended to give you a broad view of politics related to food. We will consider questions such as: What influences the way we eat and the choices available to us? How did ignorance about food become the norm in the U.S.? This is a course about politics and as such it will be focused on power relations, public values, the role of citizens, and institutional arrangements. It is not a course about lifestyle choices, public health, nutrition, etc. Some students may find some of the material upsetting. The classroom will become a supportive community of learning as we move through some challenging information.

TEXTS

1)  *What to Eat* by Marion Nestle
2)  *Kitchen Literacy* by Anne Vileisis
3)  *Pesticide Drift and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice* by Jill Lindsey Harrison
4)  *Living Downstream* by Sandra Steingraber

In addition, there will be readings on Moodle.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Class policies are intended to foster a stimulating and fruitful intellectual community for everyone. Our time in class is valuable. Therefore, I will enforce the following rules/expectations:

1. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns in the class. You can email, make an appointment, come to office hours, or talk to me before or after
class. I am here to help you. If you have a problem or question in the course, the sooner you contact me, the more effectively it can be handled.

2. It is the nature of topics in politics to entail conflicting opinions. Even those who take the time to arrive at deeply thoughtful conclusions often disagree. Class discussion will encourage free expression for everyone and hold to a standard of respect for all class members.

3. Any student with a disability who needs to arrange accommodations should talk to me at the beginning of the semester. I will be happy to make appropriate arrangements. Carleton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, Andy Christensen, at 222-4464 or anchrist@carleton.edu, to begin the process.

4. In order to nurture the classroom as a learning community for everyone, side conversations, electronics and other diversions will not be tolerated. Laptop computers are a convenience but also a tempting distraction. During class discussion and at other times I may ask that the screens be folded down.

-course requirements-

1) Extra Time Commitments

This course will have two field trips that extend beyond regularly scheduled class time. These activities will be required.

Note: There will be no class on Thursday, April 17th.

2) Participation

Although this class will be a mix of short lectures, class discussion, and other activities, it is primarily a discussion-based class. Consequently, your success in this class depends upon attending class prepared to participate in a discussion by formulating questions, observations, skepticism, etc. The short lectures will generally address topics not in the readings, or elaborate upon the readings. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed so you can return to class prepared.

3) Reading

Your reading assignments are due on the date they are listed on the course schedule. I expect excellent comprehension, retention and reflection to be evident in class discussions, questions raised, and in your workbook writing. If you have questions or concerns about any course reading that are not addressed in class discussion, please come see me in my office hours or make an appointment to discuss it with me.
4) Assignments

Your grade will be based on workbook writing, one short analytical paper, a research brief, five various assignments and a take home final exam.

For your workbook you need to purchase a notebook that is separate from whatever you take notes in. It should be dedicated to your workbook writing. We will use this in almost every class period, so you should bring it with you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workbook (turn in 4 times)</td>
<td>30 points each</td>
<td>120 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short analytical paper (4-5 pages)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 various assignments</td>
<td>30 points each</td>
<td>150 points</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research brief on chemical (2-3 pages)</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 points</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (take home)</td>
<td></td>
<td>90 points</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>580 points</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please feel free to talk with me about any of your assignments. I am happy to answer any questions that you have about either the course materials or your progress in the course.

Academic Honesty

An act of academic dishonesty is a serious offense in a college community. By seeking credit for work which is not his or her own, a student takes unfair advantage of fellow students, who accept their limitations, and of teachers, who trust that the work received is the student's. Dishonesty in academic work, particularly in the form of plagiarism, also defeats the process of self-discovery which is the heart of a liberal education. People establish their integrity and personality only as they learn to distinguish what is significantly their own from what belongs to another, only as they learn to value their own work, including its limitations, in relation to the work of others. As a scholar, finally, one should be generous in acknowledging the work of other scholars, for their work makes possible one's own.

At Carleton College, an act of academic dishonesty is therefore regarded as conflicting with the work and purpose of the entire College and not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor; all cases involving such dishonesty are referred to the Academic Standing committee for appropriate action. This action can vary from a grade of Unsatisfactory in the given piece of work to a recommendation of permanent dismissal from the College in cases of repeated and serious offenses.