

# SYLLABUS

## Course Overview

This is a seminar on food policy. This is a seminar, so we will be doing a lot of reading (i.e., a weekly average of about 200 pages) in order to have fruitful in-class discussions. Moreover, this is an introduction to food policy, so we will be covering a wide range of topics related to food rather than focus purely on one aspect of food.

## Course Information

Time:	T 3:05-5:35 in Sanford 102
Instructor:	Marc F. Bellemare
Office:	Rubenstein 110
Email:	<a href="mailto:marc.bellemare@gmail.com">marc.bellemare@gmail.com</a>
Course Website:	<a href="http://marcfbellemare.com/wordpress/pps590/">http://marcfbellemare.com/wordpress/pps590/</a> I will email you the password required to access the course website
Office Hours:	Just about any time, by appointment.

## Textbook

We will be reading the following books in whole or in part, which you can buy for less than \$100:

Belasco, Warren (2008), [\*Food: The Key Concepts\*](#), New York: Berg.  
Kenneally, Thomas (2011), [\*Three Famines: Starvation and Politics\*](#), New York: PublicAffairs.  
Paarlberg, Robert (2011), [\*Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know\*](#), Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
Nestle, Marion (200), [\*Food Politics\*](#), Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.  
Thurow, Roger, and Scott Kilman (2009), [\*Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty\*](#), New York: PublicAffairs.

## Assignments and Grading

1. *Participation in Discussions*: I assign readings every week to be discussed in class. This is a seminar course, so you are expected to read the papers and be able to discuss them with your colleagues. Please bring the assigned reading to lecture so you can refer to them during discussion. This is your time to interact with the material, and the quality of the discussion is only as good as the quality of your preparation and of your interventions. (20%)
2. *Policy Memos*: Due electronically on February 8 and on March 8 at 5 PM. (20%)
3. *Research Paper*: A specific set of guidelines regarding this assignment will be distributed early in the semester. This assignment will be due electronically on April 30 at 5PM. (60%)

I expect you to take notes in lecture. I will post my slides the course website, usually in the hours before lecture as I tend to work on my slides up until the last minute. Print the slides out and take notes on the printouts. Do not bring your laptop to class. The use of laptops in lecture is not conducive to learning.

Grading Policy: The Sanford School's target mean for 200-level course grades is 3.4, i.e., a little over B+. I rarely stray from that guideline.

Should you disagree with me over a grade, notify me within one week of receiving the grade by submitting a written explanation of why you think you deserve a (presumably) higher grade. I will then carefully re-grade your assignment in its entirety. If you do not follow this procedure, do not be surprised if I am unwilling to discuss grades: I am using this paper trail system in order to prevent problems down the road – both for myself and for you.

Finally, note that I do not tolerate frivolous requests for regrades. There needs to be a (nondegenerate) grade distribution in every class, if only to set up the proper incentives for you to learn. This unfortunately means that grades may span the full grading scale, and that I reserve the right to revise your participation grade downward as a consequence of perceived grade grubbing.

Email Policy: If something is due electronically, I will always send you a confirmation email that states that I have (i) received your work; and (ii) successfully opened the file. If you do not receive such a confirmation email from me within an hour from submitting your work, email me again as soon as possible.

## Academic Integrity

I strictly enforce [Duke's Academic Integrity Policy](#), which is as follows:

*"It is the responsibility of all members of our academic community to abide by Duke's strict expectations regarding proper citation of sources. It is also critically important to resist strenuously the temptation to cheat. Acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating, are considered very serious offenses. Students found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty are generally suspended. The academic and nonacademic offenses recognized at Duke and the range of sanctions imposed for them are explained in the Duke Community Standard in Practice, distributed to each incoming student. Please read the handbook carefully and make sure you understand its content."*

Evidence of breach of academic integrity on your part will result at a minimum in your getting an F.

## Social Media

Many academics believe blogs and other forms of social media are not worthy of their precious time; I beg to differ. I therefore encourage you to regularly check the following food policy blogs:

- Jayson Lusk's blog: <http://jaysonlusk.com/>
- Kay McDonald's Big Picture (sic) Agriculture blog: <http://www.bigpictureagriculture.com/>
- Marion Nestle's Food Politics blog: <http://www.foodpolitics.com/>
- Parke Wilde's US Food Policy blog: <http://usfoodpolicy.blogspot.com>
- And, last but not least, my own blog: <http://www.marcfbellemare.com>

A number of academics also maintain active Twitter feeds about food policy. If you are interested in following them, let me know. Or you can just [follow me on Twitter](#), since I often retweet what I find interesting.

## Readings

The following list of topics and readings is indicative – I might add or subtract some readings as we go along and as I discover new, interesting readings. All readings are compulsory. I don't expect you to read everything in detail, but I expect you to at least be able to discuss each topic intelligently on the basis of the readings.

An important objective of university education is the ability to consume and digest large amounts of reading materials and synthesize them for others. I expect you to spend between four and six hours reading each week. If you need hints and tips for speed reading, please visit with me during office hours.

To make your life easier, I have included hyperlinks to the readings wherever possible. By the time you get to some readings, however, some hyperlinks might be dead. Another important objective of university education is the ability to do library research. Do not email me asking for the readings, unless you have done everything you possibly could and found nothing.

### 1. "Why Study Food?," Food Production, and Population Growth (January 15)

Belasco, chapters 1-3.

Bellemare (2011), "[Seven Billion People on Earth: Enough with the Fear Mongering](#)," last accessed December 29, 2012.

Godfray et al. (2010), "[The Future of the Global Food System](#)," *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 365: 2769-2777.

Godfray et al. (2010), "[The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People](#)," *Science* 317: 812-818.

Fedoroff et al. (2010), "[Radically Rethinking Agriculture for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)," *Science* 327: 833-834.

Paarlberg, chapters 1 and 2.

## 2. Food Prices (January 22)

Barrett and Bellemare (2011), "[Why Food Price Volatility Doesn't Matter](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, July 11, 2011.  
Bellemare (2012), "[Measuring Who Wins and Who Loses from High Food Prices](#)," last accessed December 30, 2012.  
Bellemare (2012), "Rising Food Prices, Food Price Volatility, and Social Unrest," Working Paper.  
Graham-Row (2011), "[Agriculture: Beyond Food Versus Fuel](#)," *Nature* 474: S6-S8.  
Headey and Fan (2008), "[Anatomy of a Crisis: The Causes and Consequences of Surging Food Prices](#)," *Agricultural Economics* 39:375-391.  
Paarlberg, chapter 3.  
Von Braun (2008), "[Rising Food Prices: What Should Be Done?](#)," Washington, DC: IFPRI.

## 3. Hunger (January 29)

Allen (2003), "[Interventions for Micronutrient Deficiency Control in Developing Countries: Past, Present and Future](#)," *Journal of Nutrition* 133: 3875S-3878S.  
Collier (2008), "[The Politics of Hunger](#)," *Foreign Affairs* 87(6): 67-79.  
FAO (2007), [Achieving the Right to Food: The Human Rights Challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#), Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.  
MacDonald (2011), "[Hedging Against Hunger](#)," Global Prosperity Wonkcast, last accessed December 30, 2012  
Paarlberg, chapter 4.  
De Vault and Pitts (1984), "[Surplus and Scarcity: Hunger and the Origins of the Food Stamp Program](#)," *Social Problems* 31: 545-557.

## 4. Famine (February 5)

Day (2011), "[Charities Criticize Rich Countries' 'Shameful' Response to Famine in Horn of Africa](#)," *British Medical Journal* 343:d4799.  
Kenneally (2011), [Three Famines: Starvation and Politics](#), New York: PublicAffairs.  
Paarlberg, chapter 5.  
Sen (1980), "[Famines](#)," *World Development* 8: 613-621.

## February 8: Policy Memo 1 Due.

## 5. The Green Revolution (February 12)

Borlaug (1983), "[Contributions of Conventional Plant Breeding to Food Production](#)," *Science* 219: 689-693.  
Canine (2005), "[Building a Better Banana](#)," *Smithsonian*. 36: 96-104.  
Ejeta (2010), "[African Green Revolution Needn't Be a Mirage](#)," *Science* 327: 831-832.  
Evenson and Gollin (2003), "[Assessing the Impact of the Green Revolution, 1960 to 2000](#)," *Science* 300: 758-762.  
Paarlberg, chapter 6.  
Thurow and Kilman, chapter 1-3.

## 6. Food Aid and Food Power (February 19)

Barrett and Maxwell (2005), *Food Aid After Fifty Years: Recasting Its Role*, New York: Routledge. (Specific Chapters TBD.)

Hanrahan (2008), "[International Food Aid Provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill](#)," Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.

Paarlberg, chapter 7.

Thurow and Kilman, chapter 6

## 7. Obesity (February 26)

Ambinder (2010), "[Beating Obesity](#)," *The Atlantic* May 2010.

Caballero (2005), "[A Nutrition Paradox, Underweight and Obesity in Developing Countries](#)," *New England Journal of Medicine* 352:1514-1516.

Howard (2012), "[Special Report Obesity: The Big Picture](#)," *The Economist*, December 15, 2012.

Ludwig (2007), "[Childhood Obesity: The Shape of Things to Come](#)," *New England Journal of Medicine* 357:2325-2327.

Paarlberg, chapter 8.

## 8. Farm Subsidies and Agricultural Trade (March 5)

Alvarez (2005), "[Sweetening the US Legislature: The Remarkable Success of the Sugar Lobby](#)," *The Political Quarterly* 76: 92-99.

Orden, Blandford, and Brink (2011), "[WTO Disciplines on Agricultural Support: Experience to Date and Assessment of Doha Proposals](#)," Washington, DC: IFPRI.

Paarlberg, chapter 9.

Paarlberg and Paarlberg (2000), "[Agricultural Policy in the Twentieth Century](#)," *Agricultural History* 74:136-161.

Thurow and Kilman, chapters 4 and 5.

## March 8: Policy Memo 2 Due.

## Spring Break

## 9. Agriculture and the Environment (March 19)

FAO (2006), *Livestock's Long Shadow*, Rome, Italy: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (Parts III, IV, and V.)

Lobell et al. (2011), "[Climate Trends and Global Crop Production Since 1980](#)," *Science* 333: 616-620.

Nelson et al. (2009), "[Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation](#)," Washington, DC: IFPRI.

Paarlberg, chapter 10.

Schlenker and Roberts (2010), "[Nonlinear Temperature Effects Indicate Severe Damages to US Crop Yields Under Climate Change](#)," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 37: 15594-15598.

#### 10. Agribusiness, Supermarkets, and Fast Food (April 9)

Dutko (2012), "[Food Deserts Suffer Persistent Socioeconomic Disadvantage](#)," *Choices* 27: 1-4  
Belasco, chapter 4.  
Nestle, chapters 1-3.  
Paarlberg, chapter 11.  
Reardon et al. (2003), "[The Rise of Supermarkets in Africa, Asia and Latin America](#)," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 85: 1095-1104.

#### 11. Organic and Local Food (April 16)

Budianski (2010), "[Math Lessons for Locavores](#)," *New York Times*, August 20, 2010.  
Paarlberg, chapter 12.  
Pollan (2006), "[Mass Natural](#)," *New York Times Magazine*, June 4, 2006.  
Shapin (2006), "[Paradise Sold: What Are You Buying When You Buy Organic?](#)," *The New Yorker*, May 15, 2006.  
The Economist (2006), "[Voting with Your Trolley: Can You Really Change the World by Buying Certain Foods?](#)," *The Economist*, December 9, 2006.  
Williamson (2007), "[Is Organic Food Better for Our Health?](#)," *Nutrition Bulletin* 32: 104-108.  
Winters and Davis (2006), "[Organic Foods](#)," *Journal of Food Science* 71: R117-R124.

#### 12. Food Safety, Genetically Engineered Food, and Food Governance (April 23)

Altieri and Rosset (1999), "[Ten Reasons Why Biotechnology Will Not Ensure Food Security, Protect the Environment, and Reduce Poverty in the Developing World](#)," *AgBioForum* 2: 155-162.  
Dávila (2010), "[A Month Without Monsanto](#)," *Yes! Magazine*, last accessed December 29, 2012.  
Enserink (2008), "[Tough Lessons from Golden Rice](#)," *Science* 360: 468-471.  
Juskevich and Guyer (1990), "[Bovine Growth Hormone: Human Food Safety Evaluation](#)," *Science* 249: 875-885.  
Moss (2009) "[The Burger That Shattered Her Life](#)," *The New York Times*, October 3, last accessed December 29, 2012.  
Nestle, chapters 4-7.  
Paarlberg (2002), *[Governance and Food Security in an Age of Globalization](#)*, Washington, DC: IFPRI.  
Paarlberg, chapters 13 and 14.  
Unnevehr and Jagmanaitė (2008), "[Getting Rid of Trans Fats in the US Diet: Policies, Incentives and Progress](#)," *Food Policy* 33:497-503.