



COURSE TITLE : **AGRICULTURE, FOOD & SOCIETY**

COURSE NUMBER : GEO 422

CREDITS : 3

PREREQUISITES : NONE

ECTS CREDITS : 6

OFFERED : SPRING

SEMESTER HOURS : 45

COURSE DESCRIPTION :

We will examine the historical and contemporary development of the global agro-food systems complex. This will include the impacts of technological, political and economic changes to food security, environment and development. We will discuss and analyze how power, information and capital affect the production and distribution of agricultural products around the globe.

France is the only country in Europe considered to be self-sufficient in basic food production, and France leads the European Union in agricultural exports. While the French farmland has traditionally existed in small, scattered plots, in the decades following world War II, both farm size and mechanization have increased substantially.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY :

The course consists of class lectures, individual/group presentations on various assignments, and class discussions. Will be covered in class :

The Agri-Food Complex

- Agriculture & Capitalism; Commodity Chains & Networks; Vertical Integration in Agriculture Globalization & Agricultural Restructuring

Social Dimensions

- Farm Labor; Food Security, Hunger & Power; Sustainable Agriculture; Community food Systems; Medicalization of food

French Food Politics

- EU Price Controls; Food & Identity; Food Protests: Fast Food, Junk Food, Halal, GMOs; Anti-globalization Movements; Sustainability & Slow Food

TEXT : ***French Beans and Food Scares. Culture and Commerce in an Anxious Age,***
Freidberg, Oxford University Press, 2004

EVALUATION :

The final grade will be made up of : course project 25%; written comments on reading assignments 15%; participation 10%; midterm examination 25%; final examination 25%