

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4035 Food Politics and Policies

Pre-requisites : HA1001, HA1012

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course will introduce you to the politics and policies of food in several countries, international organisations, and across time. Food is fundamentally essential to our physical existence, but it is also intensely cultural, with socially constructed behaviour and preferences that are change-resistant even in the presence of new knowledge, policies, and practices. How have different historical, social, economic, political, and institutional factors contributed to shaping national and international food policy outcomes? In this course, we begin with a heuristic analytical framework that enables you to study how interests, ideas, instruments, and institutions interact and affect the formation, development, and implementation of national and international food policy decisions. This course is organised around four themes: politics of food identity; globalisation or glocalisation; politics of food scandals; and international politics of food. By taking this course, you will learn how food is a powerful lens to understand contemporary politics and policies beyond consumption and nutrition.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe and apply a heuristic analytical framework from the perspectives of ideas, interests, instruments, and institutions to study food politics and policies;
2. Describe and explain the roles of identity in shaping food politics and determining policy outcomes;
3. Describe and explain how globalisation and localisation forces interact to shape food politics and policies;
4. Describe and explain the politics of food scandals, especially how issues are framed and contested;
5. Describe and explain the international politics of food, particularly emergent themes and the role of countries and international organisations in programmatic implementations;
6. Synthesise knowledge on food politics and policies and articulate them in a cogent and accessible way, both orally and in writing.

Course Content

Sessions Themes

- 1 Introduction: What is food politics and policies?
- 2 A heuristic framework: the 4-Is
- 3 Politics of food identity (I): Crossing borders
- 4 Politics of food identity (II): Consuming the wild
- 5 Globalisation or glocalisation (I): Fast food in context
- 6 Globalisation or glocalisation (II): Authenticity
- 7 Food journeys (*student presentations*)
- 8 Politics of food scandals (I): Animal rights or human rights?
- 9 Politics of food scandals (II): Raw or processed?
- 10 International politics of food (I): Food diplomacy
- 11 International politics of food (II): WTO and World Food Programme
- 12 International politics of food (III): Food sovereignty
- 13 Review: Food politics and policies (*student presentations*)

Course Assessment

CA1 – Participation	: 20%
CA2 - Discussion leaders and presentation of weekly readings	: 20%
CA3 - Food journeys	: 30%
CA4 - Research essay	: 30%
Total	-----
	100%