Global Food Crisis  
POLSCI 430.01 • Spring 2019  
Final Project Assignment

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT
This course focuses on the multiple crises facing global agrifood systems that are challenging our capacity to feed and nourish a growing global population sustainably. In our study of this multiple crisis, we are touching on a myriad of issues and problems. This assignment requires you to choose and explore a problem related to course content that interests you, examine the proposed solution(s) to address the problem, and analyze these solutions through the lens of sustainability and power. Thus, the paper asks you to look at not only whether the solutions foster sustainable food systems, defined as “a food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised” (UN One Planet Network 2018, 8), but also how power is allocated according to this solution – in short, who decides and what this means.

This assignment consists of a 3,600-4,000 word original research paper and a poster presentation that highlights the subject and findings of the paper. This assignment is worth 35% of your grade (30% for the paper and 5% for the poster presentation). This handout summarizes the guidelines and steps of this assignment.

STEPS FOR COMPLETING ASSIGNMENT
1. **Choose a topic and submit at least six sources you plan to consult to write the paper.**
   - We will complete this step the week of March 18th. **Please arrive to the library instructional class on Tuesday, March 19th, with a topic in mind.** On Thursday, we will complete a Paper Topic and Preliminary Sources form in class. This form is also available in the folder for this assignment. Use the Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date citation system to format the bibliographic references for your proposed sources.
   - You must use a minimum of six sources, comprised of the following:
     - A minimum of three scholarly sources, including academic books or journal articles.
     - A minimum of two course readings
     - The rest may be a combination of course materials (textbook, readings, etc.) and articles/documents from reliable and credible news outlets, websites, (international) organizations, government documents, or official reports or statistics.
   - You may need to consult more than six sources in total for your paper and additional sources may include additional non-scholarly sources as appropriate.
   - Follow suggestions concerning how to evaluate the quality of your source from this Purdue OWL resource page: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/1/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/1/).
   - All websites must be approved by the instructor via email (i.e., send me the link to the website and the instructor will send you back a verdict). If you have any questions regarding sources, and what is and is not appropriate, please ask me.
   - **Submit your form no later than no later than Sunday, March 24th, by midnight (11:59pm) via Bridges.** Approval of topics will be granted no later than Sunday, March 31st, so that you can get started on your paper outlines right away. **Failure to submit the Paper Topic and Preliminary Sources Form on time will result in a 5 percentage-point deduction from the final paper grade.**
2. **Once your topic is approved, prepare an outline for your paper.**
   - Prepare your outline according to the three components of the paper described above (description of the problem, proposed solutions, and analysis of solutions using lens of sustainability and power).
   - Start by consulting course materials to see if there is anything relevant on your topic. Then start reading additional sources on your topic. It is important to find at least two proposed solutions to the problem you researched. Make sure to examine who is proposing these solutions and consider what they have at stake, their intentions, and their approach.
   - Be sure to look at the bibliographies of the sources you consult – often you can find additional, valuable sources that way.
   - For each section of your outline, provide details about the points you will discuss in that section of your paper and identify the source of your information for each point. Include the page number so you can easily find the information again when writing your paper. This will help you to remember where your information came from so it can be correctly cited and which source to consult for information about specific details.
   - **The outline is due no later than Sunday, April 14th, by midnight (11:59pm) via Bridges**

3. **Make an appointment to review your outline and progress for the week of April 15th.**
   - Meetings will last 10-15 minutes
   - Bring a copy of your outline to review
   - Sign up for an appointment via Sign Up on Bridges (I will send an announcement when meetings times are posted)

4. **Write a 3,600-4,000 word paper, not including title page and bibliography, on the topic you selected using the outline to help you.**
   - Use Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date system in your papers.
   - We will have an in-class Research paper Workshop on April 30th. Bring a printed copy of your paper draft.
   - Papers are due **Sunday, May 5th, by midnight (11:59pm) via Bridges**

5. **Prepare a poster presentation of your topic.**
   - The poster should summarize information from the three sections of your paper and include the bibliography.
   - Prepare and practice presenting your poster. Have a five-minute presentation ready to give to the class.
   - Include photos, images, and maps – anything that will make the information come alive! You can include a box that lists suggested websites or further reading, or even videos.
   - Be creative and have fun! Think of innovative ways to teach your peers about what you learned.
   - All posters will be due on **Thursday, May 2nd, in class.** You will sign up for a poster presentation date – either Thursday, May 2nd, or Tuesday, May 7th.
POLSC 430.01 Global Food Crisis
Final Project Handout
Spring 2019

PAPER GRADING
You will be graded on how well your paper is researched and meets the paper criteria outlined above, including the three paper components, length, organization/structure/composition, and appropriate referencing of sources and formatting of citations according to CMOS Author-Date. Be succinct in your writing and get straight to the point. Organize your paper well and write clearly. Papers that receive high grades will have met all these guidelines, moved beyond them, and clearly demonstrate critical analysis.

POSTER PRESENTATION GRADING
You will be graded on how well and how thoughtfully you convey the key messages from your paper in your poster. The poster is worth 5% of your grade and your grade will be calculated in part from student evaluations of your poster and presentation and in part from my own assessment.

DUE DATES
Submit all items (except the Poster Presentation) as MS Word Documents and upload through Bridges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Topics and Preliminary Bibliography</td>
<td>Sunday, March 24th, by midnight (11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Outline</td>
<td>Sunday, April 14th, by midnight (11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Presentations</td>
<td>Thursday, May 2nd, in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Papers</td>
<td>Sunday, May 5th, by midnight (11:59pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember to…
- Review the plagiarism warning in the syllabus.
- Stay within the assigned word count.
- Prepare an outline that reflects good organization and a coherent structure.
- Use sub-headings to organize your paper.
- Cite, cite, cite!
- Include a bibliography with consistently and correctly formatted citations – use Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date System to format your in-text citations and bibliographic references.

References