The central focus of this course is to critically understand the contemporary neoliberal moment of “globalization of capitalist agriculture”. The world of neoliberal and globalized capitalist agriculture is marked by growing inequalities as the forces that are organizing agriculture are now global in nature. This means that not only the process of agriculture production has gone beyond national boundaries, new technologies and markets for food and other agricultural commodities, rising awareness of ecological threats, rising health consequences of food-related health issues, and the crises of reproduction of ‘classes of labour’ are emerging as issues of global concern. All these and similarly encompassing and connected themes will be discussed in this course.

The course is divided into three sections: Production, consumption and future of agriculture.

The first section will introduce you to some of the theoretical issues that are pertinent to understand the idea of production in globalized capitalist agriculture. We will begin with a historical understanding of contemporary capitalist agriculture. Then we will go on and discuss how does globalization of agriculture lead to inequality in land and labour relations.

In the second section the course will deal with consumption. Given the context of COVID, this year focus is on Agriculture production and rise of new diseases. We will read exciting new work and listen to podcasts on how contemporary capitalist agriculture intersects with health.

The third and final section focuses on the ‘future of agriculture development’. Given what we have understood of globalization of capitalist development and its implications, what alternatives do we have to forge a better future for agriculture? In this section we will read about and discuss the various past and ongoing struggles to make the system of agriculture production equitable and ecologically sustainable and the lessons that can be drawn from those.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completing this course, students should be able to:

1) Identify and explain some of the fundamental factors contributing to globalization of capitalist agriculture.
2) Evaluate the implications of the globalized capitalist agriculture.
3) Critically think through efforts and struggles against capitalist agriculture.
4) Learn to identify themes/concepts discussed in class in popular/fiction/ writings and reflect on those.
5) Effectively read, summarize and ask critical questions from the text.
6) Develop research questions, critically evaluate and synthesize scholarly sources, and conduct original research.

Essential Books:

1. Haroon Akram-Lodhi: Hungry for Change – Farmers, Food Justice and Agrarian Question. This book is available online through the Western Library Services. [Link]


4. Ben White (2020) Agriculture and the Generation problem, Fernwood Publication. The link to the material needs to be hosted on Course Readings. [Note]

5. Nectar in a Sieve, by Kamala Markandeya [Note]

Course Methods

This course uses a combination of lecture presentations, film screenings and class discussion. Students are expected to attend all classes having completed ALL required readings and prepared to engage in scholarly conversation.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Worth</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Reflection</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcast Analysis 1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>May 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcast Analysis 2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>May 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Notes 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>May 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Notes 2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>May 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assignment Description: (Separate Handout will be provided on first day of the class)

1) Book Reflection (20) = 1000 words

Nectar in a Sieve: Kamala Markandeya – available online per person 2 hours loan

_Nectar in a Sieve_ is a 1954 novel by Kamala Markandaya. The book is set in India during a period of intense urban development and is the chronicle of the marriage between Rukmani, youngest daughter of a village headman, and Nathan, a tenant farmer. The story is told in the first person by Rukmani, beginning from her arranged marriage to Nathan at the age of 12 to his death many years later.

The book speaks to the theme of agrarian relations and how ‘development’ that is often urban/technologically intense impacts the lives of the poorest people.

2). Podcast Review: Do any 2: (15x2=30 ): 600 words each (Detailed handout will be provided in class)

The Secret Ingredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel
Episode on March 4, 2019: Prison Labour on Farms (39 Minutes)

The Secret Ingredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel
Episode on May 1, 2020 : COVID-19 Series: Rob Wallace


3). Literature Notes (20x2) 1200 words each – Do any 2

1. What is Agrarian Transition? Using examples from the movie Grapes of Wrath, discuss some of the fundamental characteristics of Agrarian Transition
2. What is Agrarian Neoliberalism? What is its relation with Agrarian Crisis?
3. Discuss the role of labour under globalized agriculture?
4. What is the relation between Industrial agriculture and rise of infectious diseases?

**WEEKLY READINGS**

**Day 01 (May 10): Introduction to the course, assignments, expectations and main conceptual themes:**

Agrarian Transition, Mode of production, differentiated peasantry, development of productive forces, relations of production, class, Inequalities, Inequalities in consumption, world food crisis, globalized agriculture, Capitalism’s food failures and alternatives.

**Movie: Grapes of Wrath:** The Joad clan, introduced to the world in John Steinbeck’s iconic novel, is looking for a better life in California. After their drought-ridden farm is seized by the bank, the family – led by just-paroled son Tom (Henry Fonda) – loads up a truck and heads West. On the road, beset by hardships, the Joads meet dozens of other families making the same trek and holding onto the same dream. Once in California, however, the Joads soon realize that the promised land isn’t quite what they hoped.

_The Grapes of Wrath_ can be read as a proletarian novel, advocating social change by showing the unfair working conditions the migrants face when they reach California. The men who own the
land there hold the power, and attempt to control supply and demand so that they can get away with paying poor wages. After listening to Casy talk about unity, Tom plans to represent the workers as they fight against exploitation in the face of this economic machine. In the end, the Joads develop a sense of community among their fellow exploited proletariats, still searching for the sometimes elusive American Dream.

Grapes of Wrath: *Grapes of Wrath* is available as an online streaming video through Criterion on Demand with unlimited access.


You will need to login/authenticate in OMNI.

**Day 02 (May11): Theoretical Introduction to Agrarian Transition**


**Suggested Readings:**


**Day 03 (May12) – Section 1: Production: Neoliberal Agriculture**


**Suggested Readings:**

2. Clapp. J. and Issakson, R. (2018), Speculative Harvests: Financialisation, Food, and Agriculture, Chapter 1

**Day 04 (May 13) Neoliberal Agriculture and The Agrarian Question**


**Suggested Readings:**

1. Philip McMichael (2013), Food Regimes and Agrarian Questions, Chapter 3.

**Day 05 (May 17): Neoliberal Agriculture: Agrarian Crisis and Crisis of Reproduction:**

1. Raju Das (2013). Agrarian Crisis as the Crisis of Small Property Ownership in Globalizing Capitalism. Available here at: [https://mronline.org/2013/10/01/das011013-html/](https://mronline.org/2013/10/01/das011013-html/)

2. P. Sainath (2010), Suicides are about the living not the dead – [https://psainath.org/suicides-are-about-the-living-not-the-dead/](https://psainath.org/suicides-are-about-the-living-not-the-dead/)

3. White, B. (2020) Agriculture and the Generation Problem, Chapter 1,3,5

**Film: Nero's quest** (Available online) [https://youtu.be/4q6m5NgrCJs](https://youtu.be/4q6m5NgrCJs)

**Suggested Readings:**

1. Lenin, V.I. (1899), The differentiation of the Peasantry, in John Harris (ed) Rural Development: Theories of Peasant Economies and Rural Change (pp. 130-138)

**Day 6 (May 18) Conditions of labour in globalized agriculture.**


5. The Secret Ingredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel

Day 7 (May 19) Feedback/Questions

Day 8 (May 20): Section 2: Consumption: Industrial Agriculture and Infectious Diseases 01

1. Rob Wallace – Dead Epidemiologists – On the origins of COVID-19 (chapter 1-6)


3. PODCAST: The Secret Ingredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel
   Episode on May 1, 2020: COVID-19 Series: Rob Wallace


   **(MAY 24) – VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY**

Day 11 (May 25) Industrial Agriculture and Infectious Diseases 02

1. Rob Wallace – Dead Epidemiologists – On the origins of COVID-19 (Chapter 7-12)


5. PODCAST: The SecretIngredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel
   Episode on May 1, 2020: COVID-19 Series: Rob Wallace

Day 12 (May 26) Section 3: Future of Agriculture

(i) Food Sovereignty or Food Security And (ii) Trade Policies


Podcasts on trade Relations: These are short episodes not more than 10-15 mins each.
Listen to 4 part Episode 7 of this podcast: https://voiced.ca/project/human-inequality-in-global-perspective/

EP 07 Regulating Regulating globalization and international trade PT 1: The World Trade Organization

EP 07 Regulating Regulating globalization and international trade PT 2: The Doha development Agenda

EP 07 Regulating Regulating globalization and international trade PT 3: Bilateral and regional trade and investment agreements

EP 07 Regulating Regulating globalization and international trade PT 4: Globalisation and its discontents

Suggested Readings:


Eduardo Galeano – "Monoculture is a prison, it always was". Eduardo Galeano writes to MST, Via Campesina https://www.mstbrazil.org/news/081606-monoculture-prison-it-always-was-eduardo-galeano-writes-mst-campesina

Marc Edelman and Saturnino M.Borras (2016): Political Dynamics of Transnational Agrarian Movements


Day 13 (May 27): New Green Deal


Benjamin Selwyn (2021) A green new deal for agriculture: for, within, or against capitalism?, The Journal of Peasant Studies, DOI:

The Secret Ingredient by KUT and KUTX Studios, Raj Patel Episode on Jan 21, 2020 : The Green New Deal for Agriculture: Jim Goodman and Raj Patel


Why Sustainable Agriculture Has to Be a G20 Priority - https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/why-sustainable-agriculture-has-be-g20-priority

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information
Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Code of Conduct
Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations
A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.

2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.
**Turnitin.com**
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**
It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

**Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**
Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:
- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work**
Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/.
Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on medical grounds for assignments worth less than 10% of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor may require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the Student Medical Certificate. The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed Consideration Request Form. Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult Huron Academic Advising at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services
For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/ or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm.
You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/
Office of the Registrar: https://registrar.uwo.ca/
Student Quick Reference Guide: https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1
Learning Development and Success: https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/
Accessible Education: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/
Western USC: http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, https://www.uwo.ca/health/.