

Not Your Mother's Home Economics: The Economics and Policy of Food
ECON258

Professor J. Geoghegan

Office: JC 126

Lectures: Mon/Fri 10:25(M)/9:30(F) – 11:40

Office Hours: Mon 12:00 - 2:00

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Co-Instructor: Mr. K. Marchesi

Office: JC 202B

Office Hours: Tues 10:00 – 12:00

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Course Objectives:

This course covers a myriad of issues associated with the U.S. food system from an applied economic perspective. The social, environmental, and economic costs and benefits of food production, distribution, and consumption will be examined and policy implications developed. By doing so, a greater understanding of the positive and negative aspects of the food systems will be developed. The course will be an eclectic mixture of lectures, guest speakers, documentary screenings (with student response papers) and discussions. A new addition will be a research component and student in-class presentations related to local craft beer production.

Learning Objectives:

In addition to the content matter, the course is designed for students to meet three important learning outcomes that are crucial for student development. The first will be the application of economic models, developed in both this course and earlier courses in economics to “real world” (=messy!) situations. The second will focus on the collection and analyses of data to develop an understanding of local craft beer production. The third will focus on the ability to effectively communicate that research in both oral and written form.

Prerequisites:

ECON10, ECON11 and ECON160. While not currently required, ECON265 would be very helpful as well.

Required Texts:

This course has two required texts, listed below. The deadline for reading these texts is listed on the attached course schedule. Some reading will have a required submission of five discussion questions before the text is discussed in class. These submitted discussion questions will be graded “check minus, check, check plus” and their total contribution to the final grade will be 20%. Late submissions will not be accepted. See attached course schedule for details and dates.

Wilde, Parke. 2018. *Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction*. 2nd Edition. Routledge: New York, NY

Swinnen, Johan and Devin Briski. *Beeronomics: How Beer Explains the World*. Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK.

Format of Course:

The course will meet two days a week, with an additional required section immediately preceding the Friday class meetings. That is, we will meet on Mondays from 10:25 – 11:40 and Fridays from 9:30 – 11:40. The longer class time on Fridays will be used for documentary screenings, project work, etc. In addition to the required texts which will be read and discussed, there will also be many additional required readings on the course Moodle page.

Documentary Screenings:

On most Fridays, we will be screening a food (beer)-related documentary in class, followed by in-class discussion. Specific titles and dates are on attached course schedule.

Research Project:

There will be a research component to the class that will contribute 30% to final grade. Details will be forthcoming.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance in each class is **MANDATORY**. If any class is missed, it will result in a student’s **final** grade in the course being reduced by a third of a grade (e.g. from “B” to “B-“ for a missed class). Participation in class will contribute 10% to each student’s final grade. The “value” of the participation will depend upon the thoughtfulness of a student’s contribution to discussion and not total amount of “air time”

Assessments:

There will be no exams in this course. However, in addition to all the other submitted items listed in this document and attached, students will make poster presentations at Academic Spree Day.

Amount of Time Required for this Course:

This is a rough approximation of the time required *each week* for this course:

Class Time:	210 minutes
Reading of Required Texts:	360 minutes
Research/Preparation for Final Project:	210 minutes
TOTAL :	780 minutes

Capstone:

If any student is interested in taking this course as their Economics Major Capstone experience, you must discuss this with me ***at the end of class today*** as this will entail additional requirements for the course material and work, including presenting a poster in the Economics Department Capstone Poster Session on Monday April 29, 2019 at 4:30 pm. The deadline for submitting the capstone application to the Economics Department will be forthcoming (forms will be sent out to all remaining seniors by Cindy Rice the first week of the semester).

Academic Integrity:**[**language taken from Academic Advising website]**

“Academic integrity is a basic value for all higher learning. Simply expressed, it requires that work presented must be wholly one's own and unique to that course. All direct quotations must be identified by source. Academic integrity can be violated in many ways: for example, by submitting someone else's paper as one's own; cheating on an exam; submitting one paper to more than one class; copying a computer program; altering data in an experiment; or quoting published material without proper citation of references or sources. Attempts to alter an official academic record will also be treated as violations of academic integrity.

To ensure academic integrity and safeguard students' rights, all suspected violations of academic integrity are reported to the College Board. Such reports must be carefully documented, and students accused of the infraction are notified of the charge. In the case of proven academic dishonesty, the student will receive a sanction, which may range from an F in the assignment or course to suspension or expulsion from the University.”

The complete academic integrity policy is available with Academic Advising at <http://www.clarku.edu/offices/aac/integrity.cfm>

Students with Documented Disabilities:

Students who require accommodations in this course should contact Disability Services at Clark University at 508-798-4368 or disabilityoffice@clarku.edu.

Office Hours:

I can be found in the Chair's Office of the Economics Department. My office hours are Monday from 12:00–2:00. If you are not able to come to office hours and need to meet with me, please schedule an appointment with the department Administrative Assistant, Cindy Rice (crice@clarku.edu).

Grades:

In general for my courses, grades are assigned as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); with “+” and “-“ being determined within those ranges. A recap of what was discussed in above (with a reminder that any missed classes will reduce final grades as discussed above):

Response Papers (5 each 6%)	30%
Discussion Questions (total)	20%
<i>Beeronomics</i> Lecture & Discussion:	10%
Research Project (paper and presentation):	30%
Participation:	10%

Notice to students: Faculty Members are “Responsible Employees”:

This notice is to inform you that, in compliance with Federal law, the Faculty member(s) and Teaching Assistant(s) associated with this course are considered “Responsible Employees” by Clark University. As such, they are required to report all alleged sexual offenses to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, Lynn Levey (llevey@clarku.edu). The only exceptions to this reporting responsibility are the community members who have been designated and/or trained as “Confidential” Sources. This includes the professional staff in Clark’s Center for Counseling and Personal Growth (508-793-7678) and the medical providers at the Health Center, (508-793-7467). In addition, Professor James Cordova (jvc.confidential@clarku.edu) Professor Kathy Palm Reed (kpr.confidential@clarku.edu) and Professor Andrew Stewart (als.confidential@clarku.edu) are also considered confidential resources for the Academic '18-'19 year (waiting on confirmation this is still correct for this AY).

Tentative Course Outline and Disclaimer:

A course outline is attached. I reserve the right to make changes to any information contained in this syllabus or attached course schedule at any time during the semester. An updated version of the syllabus and/or course schedule will be discussed and distributed to students if changes are made.