

E/MUM-322: Globalization and Food
McCormick Theological Seminary
May 2009

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Monday, May 18, 10:00 – 2:00
Tuesday – Thursday, May 19-21, Alma, MI
Tuesday – Thursday, May 26-28, 10:00 –
4:00

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Course Description:

Perhaps more than other contemporary issues, globalization presents challenges to Christian life, raising questions about everything from what we buy to how we make financial investments, from our treatment of creation to our political involvement. And, to be sure, it raises questions about what we eat. “You are what you eat,” it is sometimes said. If that’s true, then we are citizens of a globalized world in which we reap what we do not sow, eat from one another’s tables, and shape each other’s lives in ways both hidden and apparent. Through field trips, class readings and discussions, and direct engagement with rural and urban partners, this course uses food as a case study to understand some of the key dynamics of globalization and to develop faithful Christian responses to this complex context.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- define globalization and its theoretical, theological, sociological, and ethical dimensions;
- identify and explain key connections between the context of globalization and the particular issues of food production, security, and distribution;
- imagine and plan strategies for engaging local and congregational contexts in practices that respond to the realities of globalization;
- compare and contrast the experiences of globalization in the urban and rural contexts.

Expectations and Evaluation:

Students preparing for Christian ministry in congregations and religious leadership are expected to reflect theologically on contemporary political and social issues, as well as help the communities in which they serve reflect upon these issues. This course is designed to prepare students for these challenging tasks, particularly in light of the impact of globalization on the production, security, and distribution of food. To do this, we will seek to create a community of learning in which we all are accountable to one another.

Your presence, preparation and participation in class are indispensable. For this reason, attendance and full participation are mandatory. More than one absence will affect your participation grade, and missing more than nine hours of class time will result in a failure of the course. *Also, written assignments submitted late without prior arrangement with the instructor will lose one-half letter grade for each day they are late.*

This course uses an online learning management system, Blackboard. A brief orientation to the system will be offered on the first day of class, and all students are expected to check Blackboard daily for important announcements, reading assignments, and for submission of written work. The address for Blackboard is www.fishersnet.blackboard.com.

Lastly, all students are responsible for knowing and adhering to McCormick’s policies on proper use of sources, research paper form, plagiarism, and guidelines for inclusive language, found in the McCormick student handbook on pages 40-52. It’s an ethics class... enough said, right?

Course Requirements:

Ministry Project or Final Paper (40%): Students have the option, at the end of the course, to (1) construct a four-session curriculum for a congregation or other community group or (2) write a 12-15 page research paper further developing any one of the themes covered in class.

Discussion Leadership (20%): Each of you will be responsible for presenting a “discussion starter” during one of the class meetings. Please prepare a two-page outline identifying key themes, challenges and questions for the class to discuss. Where possible, please help the class connect the reading with our experiences in Alma and Chicago.

Attendance and Participation (40%): See the attendance policy above, under course expectations.

Optional Meetings (extra credit): The students from Alma College will be in Chicago for their urban portion of the class from May 6-8. Since this is during exam week, students registered for the McCormick class who are able to join that group for one or more of their excursions will receive extra credit for the course.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Date	Focus and Assignment Due	Reading Assignment Due
<p>Monday May 18 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>On Food On Globalization</p>	<p>Chapters 5, 6 and 7 in Fernández-Armesto</p> <p>Stackhouse, “Introduction: Faith and Globalization,” from <i>Globalization and Grace</i>, pp. 1-34 [On Blackboard, hereafter noted as (bb)]</p> <p>Peters, “The Ethics of Globalization,” from</p>

		<p><i>In Search of the Good Life</i>, pp. 16-33 (bb)</p> <p>Moe-Lobeda, "Introduction to Globalization," from <i>Healing a Broken World</i>, pp. 19-29 (bb)</p>
<p>Tuesday May 19</p>	<p>Travel to Alma, MI</p> <p>Departure time: 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Arrival time: 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Check into guest housing.</p> <p>Dinner with Local Hosts</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Chapter 8 in Fernández-Armesto</p> <p>Beardsworth, Alan and Teresa Keil, "The Making of the Modern Food System" from <i>Sociology on the Menu: An Invitation to the Study of Food and Society</i>, pp. 32-46 (bb)</p>

<p>Wednesday May 20</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Morning Visits:</p> <p>Hooks Dairy Farm</p> <p>McKenzie's Soybean/Corn Farm</p>	
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	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Afternoon Visit:</p> <p>Amish Farm</p> <p>Dinner</p> <p>5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Evening Debriefing Session</p>	<p>Faith and the Farm Bill materials (bb)</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>May 21</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Class Meeting</p> <p>9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Return to Chicago</p> <p>Departure time: 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Arrival time: 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>We Are What We Eat</i> (bb)</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>May 26</p>	<p>Global Food, Global Workers</p>	<p>Ahn, "Migrant Farmworkers: America's New Plantation Workers," from Food First (bb)</p>

<p>10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Holt-Gimenez, “Movimiento Campesino a Campesino: Linking Sustainable Agriculture and Social Change,” from Food First (bb)</p> <p>Machado, “Promoting Solidarity with Migrants,” in</p> <p>Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, pp. 115-126</p> <p>Zukin, Sharon et. al. “Artists and Immigrants in New York City Restaurants.” In <i>The Culture of Cities</i>, 153-185 (bb)</p>
<p>Wednesday May 27</p> <p>10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Food Production, Security, and Distribution</p>	<p>Peters, “Supporting Community Farming,” in</p> <p>Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, pp. 17-28</p> <p>Sack, Daniel. “Global Food: Hunger Politics.” In <i>Whitebread Protestants: Food and Religion in American Culture</i>, 137-183 (bb)</p>

<p>Thursday May 28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Implications for Ministry</p>	<p>Hobgood, “Challenging Our Assumptions,” in</p> <p>Brubaker, Peters and Stivers, pp. 150-160</p> <p>Jung, “Eating Justly,” in</p> <p>Brubaker, Peters, and Stivers, pp. 50-61</p>
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<p>Friday</p> <p>June 12</p>	<p>Final Projects Due, 5:00 pm!</p>	

Course Bibliography

Books for purchase, significant portions to be read:

Brubaker, Pamela K., Laura A. Stivers, and Rebecca Todd Peters, eds. *Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. *Near a Thousand Tables: A History of Food*. New York: Free Press, 2002.

The following shorter selections will be posted to Blackboard:

Ahn, Christine. *Migrant Farmworkers: America's New Plantation Workers*. Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, 2004.

Beardsworth, Alan and Teresa Keil. "The Making of the Modern Food System." In *Sociology on the Menu: An Invitation to the Study of Food and Society*, 32-46. New York. Routledge, 1997.

Holt-Gimenez, Eric. *Movimiento Campesino a Campesino: Linking Sustainable Agriculture and Social Change*. Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, 2006.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D. "Introduction to Globalization." In *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, 19-29. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

Peters, Rebecca Todd. "The Ethics of Globalization." In *In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization*, 16-34. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2004.

Sack, Daniel. "Global Food: Hunger Politics." In *Whitebread Protestants: Food and Religion in American Culture*, 137-183. New York: Palgrave Press, 2000.

Stackhouse, Max L. "Introduction: Faith and Globalization." In *Globalization and Grace: A Christian Public Theology for a Global Future*, 1-34. New York: Continuum Books, 2007.

We Are What We Eat: A Report Approved by the 214th General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Louisville, KY: The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and the Rural Ministry Office, 2002.

Zukin, Sharon et. al. "Artists and Immigrants in New York City Restaurants." In *The Culture of Cities*, 153-185. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1995.