

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Globalized Capitalist Agriculture**

**Course Number and Section:**

CGS

3527G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Katherine Lawless

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This course engages with key concepts in the study of globalized capitalist agriculture and recognizes two key processes as foundational to its development: primitive accumulation and financialization. To understand how this is the case, we read seminal texts in critical agrarian studies that examine the historical emergence of industrialized, and eventually globalized, agriculture; its capitalist context; and its character in our contemporary, neoliberal world. The course is organized in three sections: Historical Context, Key Concepts, and Agricultural Futures. The first looks at how historical concepts and practices informing agricultural production, from slave labour to the “plundering” of natural resources, continue to impact contemporary agriculture, from microbial labour to greenhouse gas emissions. The second examines how new concepts and practices in our current world capture transformations in agricultural production that correspond with changes in capitalist social, political, and material conditions and relations. The final section investigates capitalist and post-capitalist agricultural futures.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify, explain, and mobilize key concepts in the study of globalized capitalist agriculture.
2. Explain the relationship among capitalism, agriculture, and globalization.
3. Discuss the three major agricultural revolutions and their impacts on food production, distribution, and consumption across scales.
4. Describe the main features of capitalist agricultural systems (i.e., manufactured versus natural inputs/outputs).
5. Understand the key theoretical debates regarding the character of modern agriculture.
6. Use frameworks in critical political economy, critical agrarian studies, cultural and political ecology, and post/decolonial studies to analyze key issues in contemporary agriculture.
7. Generate case studies demonstrating the social, cultural, political, economic, and ecological impacts of globalized capitalist agriculture.

8. Demonstrate skills of analysis, synthesis, and critique that can be transferred across disciplines and sectors.

**Textbooks and Course Materials:**

Students will read a variety of academic articles and selections from books and anthologies pertaining to the study of globalized capitalist agriculture.

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Think Pieces (x10)	Weekly	30
Case Study Presentation	Various	20
Case Study Report	Various	20
Final Paper	April 6	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, December 8, 2023