

## SFS/AGB 216: Subsectors of US Food and Agriculture

Class Number:

Credit Hours: 3

Spring 2020

Tues/Thurs, 3-4:15 pm, PABLO 101

Pre-requisite: None

Co-requisite: None

### Instructor

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### Teaching Support

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### Syllabus Disclaimer

*All syllabi are subject to minor changes to meet the needs of the instructor, school, or class. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes. Please check your ASU email and the Announcements on the course site often.*

## Course Description

In this class, students will be introduced to the subsectors of agricultural production. The course will focus on how our dietary choices affect not only our health but also the environment and those involved in the production of food. In this class we will explore the US food and agriculture sector from an interdisciplinary perspective. Food is a topic which can be explored from a variety of fields, from policy to public health and business to international affairs. We will begin by investigating the USDA MyPlate recommendations for daily nutrition, and from there develop a discussion about the future of food and how to create a sustainable food system.

## Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Assess the impact of food production terms of natural resources, labor, and inputs
- Master 15 tools and be aware of key resources for research on the food and agriculture sector (note: these tools are in addition to those explored in SFS 215)
- Understand and describe the basic facts of the most important subsectors of agricultural production and policy controversies challenging the subsectors
- Define sustainable food systems from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Conduct research and evaluate materials from a variety of sources

- Understand food production methods and the sustainability issues related to different types of production.

## Course Delivery and Access

Students in this course will meet regularly as scheduled. Course content will be delivered through lectures, recitations, textbooks, videos, guest speakers, and assessments. Additionally, some course content and assignments will be accessed online in Canvas, which can be accessed by [my.asu.edu](http://my.asu.edu).

## Course Materials

The primary text for this course is The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food (2014) by Dan Barber. Students are expected to have access to the text throughout this course. Other course materials will be available on Canvas for use. Please check the weekly folders for specific readings.

## Grading Scale

Points	%	Grade
970 - 1,000	97 - 100%	A+
930 - 969	93 - 96%	A
900 - 929	90 - 92%	A-
870 - 899	87 - 89%	B+
830 - 869	83 - 86%	B
800 - 829	80 - 82%	B-
770 - 799	77 - 79%	C+
700 - 769	70 - 76%	C
600 - 699	60 - 69%	D
0 - 599	59% or <	E
	-	EN - Failing for Not Participating
	-	XE - Academic Dishonesty

## Grade Components

Assessment	% of Grade
Course Participation	10%
Group Presentation	10%
10 page paper	30%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Participation (15%)

Attendance and participation are expected from students in this course. In class attendance and contributions will be counted toward 10% of the grade.

- Group Presentations (15%)

In each week of the class (except for the first and last day of the term and the week of the midterm), a small group (3-6) of students will be assigned the duty of collectively preparing a brief presentation and leading a 20 minute class discussion on that week's topic. Details for the assignment can be found on Canvas. The team as a whole will receive a letter grade for this work.

- Ten page paper (40%)

Students will write a ten page paper on a food group (e.g. meat, dairy, grain) and farm-driven cuisine as articulated by Dan Barber in *The Third Plate*. Students should draw from the lectures, readings, and resources to provide citations for the papers. The papers have no required citation format, but should be consistent throughout (i.e. APA, MLA).

- Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be scheduled by the University registrar. The exam schedule can be found at <https://students.asu.edu/final-exam-schedule>. Under this schedule, if a conflict occurs, or a student has more than three exams on one day, the instructors may be consulted about an individual schedule adjustment. If necessary, the matter may be pursued further with the appropriate dean(s). This procedure applies to conflicts among any combination of Downtown Phoenix campus, Tempe campus, Polytechnic campus, West campus, and/or off-campus class.

## Communicating with the Instructor

Students may schedule appointments with the professor via email.

## Submitting Assignments

All time frames used in class follow Arizona Mountain Standard Time (MST). Arizona does not observe daylight saving time (DST) from March through November; therefore, the time in Arizona will not align with other places that are on MST for half the year. Use a [Time Converter \(links to an external site\)](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. If you are located in time zone other than Arizona MST, go to your account on the Global Canvas Navigation bar (black background) and edit your settings to reflect your actual time zone. This will adjust the due dates and times in your courses (here is [more information](#) about this).

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, MUST be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email (unless asked to do so).

## Attendance and Absences

Attendance will be taken every class. We understand that you may have unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from attending class. No points will be taken off for the first three absences, and there is no need to inform the professor of your absence. Just make sure you find a friend to learn what was covered in class. After you have missed three classes, for every additional unexcused absence, 10% will be taken off of your participation grade.

Please follow the appropriate university policies to request absences or accommodations related to [ACD 304–04 Accommodation for Religious Practices](#) and [ACD 304–02 Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities](#).

## Late or Missed Assignments Policy

If you have a legitimate reason for missing an exam, or handing in the paper assignment later than the deadline, we are happy to accommodate you, provided you submit a doctor's note, or some other documentation. This is the only way late work will be excused.

Assignments without an excused absence will be marked down  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a grade for each day past the due date (e.g. An assignment with a grade of B would be marked down to a B- one day after the due date, and C+ two days after the due date etc.).

## Course Schedule *(subject to change: see syllabus disclaimer)*

Module	Topics	Assignments Due
Part One: The Sustainable Plate <i>What makes a food system sustainable? How do the foods that we choose to eat affect society and the environment? We will read Dan Barber's book, <a href="#">The Third Plate</a>, and explore and debate his concept of farm-driven cuisine. In this first part of our course, our studies will be organized by food group as depicted by the USDA <a href="#">MyPlate.gov</a>. Each week we will study one food group in depth. We will learn about production, distribution, and sustainability issues associated with that food group and brainstorm ways to alter consumption to align with sustainable production.</i>		
Week 1	Introduction to The Third Plate Fruits and Vegetables I	No readings required for the first class Student intro (on Canvas)
Week 2	Fruits and Vegetables II	Readings and online discussion
Week 3	Grains and Pulses	Readings and online discussion

Week 4	Oils and Fats	Readings and online discussion
Week 5	Dairy	Readings and online discussion
Week 6	Livestock I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beef cattle</li> <li>• Hogs</li> <li>• Chicken</li> </ul>	Readings and online discussion
Week 7	Livestock II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other livestock: sheep, goat, bison, horse, turkey, duck</li> <li>• Alternative proteins (eg, plant-based, insect)</li> </ul>	Readings and online discussion
Week 8	Water and Beverages	Readings and online discussion
Week 9	Fiber Midterm exam to be held in second half of this class session, covering weeks 1-8	Readings and online discussion
Week 10	Seafood	Readings and online discussion
Week 11	Aquaculture	Readings and online discussion
<p>Part Two: Food Systems</p> <p><i>Now that we've learned about particular crops and production methods, we will put everything together and think about food from a systems perspective. We will examine the differences in production methods like organic and conventional that make some systems more sustainable than others. Students will learn how Federal policy affects decision making throughout the food system. We will think about how innovation can change the current food system, while keeping sustainability at the front of the agenda.</i></p>		
Week 12	Rural and Urban Production	Ten-page paper due at beginning of class (see further details on Canvas)
Week 13	Commodity and Local Production	Readings and online discussion
Week 14	Conventional, Natural, IPM, and Organic Production	Readings and online discussion
Week 15	Tying it all together: The Farm Bill and its contributions to the third plate	Readings and online discussion

## **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. Feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available and students can access it through myASU as well. See [Student FAQs](#) for more information.

## **Use of Personal Electronics During Class**

Please turn off or silence cell phones, etc., prior to coming to the face-to-face class sessions, and do not send text messages during class time. If you have an emergency and need to keep in communication with someone, please inform your instructor ahead of time. You may use your laptop to take notes. Do not use class time for emails, chats, web browsing, or other non-class related activities.

## **How Long Students Should Wait for an Absent Instructor**

In the event the instructor fails to indicate a time obligation, the time obligation will be 15 minutes for class sessions lasting 90 minutes or less, and 30 minutes for class sessions lasting more than 90 minutes. Students may be directed to wait longer by someone from the academic unit if they know the instructor will arrive shortly.

## **Students with Disabilities**

ASU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the entity that provides services to students with disabilities. If you desire accommodation for this course, [contact the DRC](#) to establish your eligibility and make sure they can provide you with the services you will need for this course. Students with disabilities must meet the same standards, deadlines, etc. as any other student in the course.

## **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Students have the responsibility to understand and follow ASU's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Policy](#). You may face ethical decisions during your time as a student. If you're not sure whether or not something is permitted, it is your responsibility to ask questions or find out by doing more research using the links above. Any violations in this course are subject to sanctions and will be reported to the School of Sustainability and the college or school of your major.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Integrity (also known as cheating, copying others' work, or even reusing your own work) falls under the Student Code of Conduct. Possible sanctions for violations include, but are not limited to,

appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), suspension, and expulsion.

Beware that some websites promote themselves as tutoring and educational resource sites, but may actually be sites that put you at risk for an academic integrity violation if you are using the services to submit work that is not your own or gain knowledge of what to expect on a quiz or exam.

Important: Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

## **Disruptive Student Behavior**

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per the [SSM 201-10 Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#) and [SSM 104-02 Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus](#) policies.

Appropriate online behavior (also known as *netiquette*) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor.

## **Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services**

Course content, including lectures, are copyrighted materials. Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course (see [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#) for more information).

## **Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**

[ACD-401 Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#), prohibits discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students. Contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at (480) 965-6547, if you feel another student is harassing you based on any of the factors above; contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at (480) 965-5057 if you feel an ASU employee is harassing you based on any of the factors above.

ASU continues to implement U.S. Department of Education guidance regarding sexual assaults under Title IX federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is

prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources on ASU's [Sexual Violence Awareness](#) page.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. [ASU Counseling Services](#) are available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

## Add/Drop/Withdrawals Deadline

ASU's [Academic Calendar](#) contains important dates by which you can add or drop this course without penalty called "Last Day to Drop/Add Without College Approval". After this date, if you choose to withdraw from the course, you may do so by the "Course Withdrawal Deadline", but will receive a 'W' on your official transcript. Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor if you have questions about [Drop/Add and Withdrawal](#).

## Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the School of Sustainability per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#). See additional instructions for [undergraduate SOS courses](#) and [graduate SOS courses](#) (under Grade Appeal).

## Computer Requirements

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Internet Explorer](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (free)
- A webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office ([Microsoft 365](#) is free for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream video

## Email and Internet

You must have an active ASU email account and access to the Internet. ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.*

## Technical Support Contact Information

If you are experiencing technical issues, visit the [My ASU](#) "Service Center" tab for immediate support, to review answers to frequently asked questions, or to submit a request for service.



The number for immediate assistance is **1-855-278-5080** with staff available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to help direct your call. Also see [ASU's Contact Us](#) page. Known issues and system outages will be shared on [ASU's System Health](#) site.

Students also have access to several [computing sites](#).

## Power and System Outages

In the event of a power outage or other event affecting the ability of the University to deliver ground and online classes, any decision to cancel classes will be announced using the ASU emergency notification system for ground campus students. Ground campus students should register with the [ASU LiveSafe](#) mobile app. Additionally, ground campus and online students can learn about power and system outages on the [ASU System Health](#) site.

## Emergency Evacuation Plan

Students should be aware of the evacuation route posted on the exit door of each classroom. Students who cannot walk up or down stairs should notify the instructors as early in the course as possible so the instructors can provide information regarding the location of a designated meeting area on each floor of the building.

## Additional Information and Resources

- [School of Sustainability](#) – this course is offered through the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Questions about the course should first be addressed with the instructor. If necessary, you can also contact the school at (480) 727-6963 or [schoolofsustainability@asu.edu](mailto:schoolofsustainability@asu.edu).
- [Career Services](#) – offers assistance to students in choosing their major, setting career goals, interviewing and job hunting strategies. Students pursuing a degree program through the School of Sustainability also have access to a [sustainability career advisor](#).
- [Counseling Services](#) – professional counseling and crisis services for students experiencing emotional concerns, problems in adjusting, and other factors that affect their ability to achieve their academic and personal goals. Support is available 24/7 between campus locations and EMPACT's 24-hour ASU-dedicated crisis hotline.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarship Services](#) – offers information and applications for student funding such as grants, loans, scholarships and student employment.
- [GPA Calculator](#) – students can use this calculator to project their GPA.
- [Health Services](#) – provides non-emergency medical health care to all ground campus ASU students regardless of insurance status. Most visits with a physician or nurse practitioner are free of charge, but fees will be incurred for x-rays, lab results, etc.,
- [Libraries](#) - offers 24/7 access to librarians through "Ask a Librarian" online chat and help by librarians in person at the Reference Desk during most hours the libraries are open.

- [ASU Online Students](#) – students pursuing fully online programs have access to success coaches and additional tips for success.
- [Sun Devil Fitness](#) – offers individual and group fitness opportunities, as well as information on nutrition and wellness, and massages. Use of the general facilities (weights, circuit training and cardio machines) are free, other services (yoga classes, massages) are fee-based.
- [Tutoring and Writing Centers](#) – provides students with academic support services such as tutoring, peer advising, computer assisted instruction, writing support, and supplemental instruction
- [Contact Arizona State University](#) – provides frequently asked question resources and contact information for new questions.