

# **GEOGRAPHY 3911 – Food Systems and Food Security (F14)**

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Instructor: Dr. Bradley A. Wilson  
Office: RC-2006A  
Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 10-11:15am and 1-2pm, Thurs. noon - 2:15pm

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Text: Critical Perspectives in Food Studies (2012)

Required Reading: (assigned readings in Main Library on 2-hour reserve)

Grading:	*Midterm Exam #1	20%	(Oct. 20)
	*Midterm Exam #2	20%	(Nov. 19)
	Food Source Mapping Exercises	20%	(10% each: due Oct. 1 <u>and</u> Nov. 12)
	Food Recall Presentation	6%	(Oct. 22 <u>or</u> 27)
	Term Paper Abstract	4%	(due Oct. 6, lates not accepted)
	Term Paper	30%	(due Mon. Dec. 1)

Late penalties on all due material: 10% per day.

\*If you choose to miss an **exam** for any reason other than those deemed acceptable in Lakehead University calendar, then you will be given the opportunity of a essay-based makeup exam that is significantly longer and more difficult.

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## **Course Description:**

This course will cover the following topics:

- history of agriculture
- global food production and resources
- issues industrial-style food production systems
- alternate food systems
- food system challenges
- national and regional food security issues
- household level studies in food security

## **Student Responsibilities:**

- attend all classes
- complete assigned readings before class
- participate in class discussions

## Weekly Topics and Readings

1. Changing Food Systems (text: chapt. 2, 6)
  - history of agriculture
2. Changing Food Systems (text: chapt. 2, 6)
  - agricultural revolutions
3. World Resources
  - soils, water, climate, types of agricultural methods
  - ([www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/soil-the-foundation-of-agriculture-84224268](http://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/soil-the-foundation-of-agriculture-84224268))
4. Politics of Industrial Food Production (text: chapt. 7, 12)
  - term paper discussion
  - ASSIGNMENT: Food Source Mapping Project #1 - Due Oct. 1
5. Alternative Food Systems (text: chapt. 20, 22)
  - rise of local food movements
6. Food Safety (Monday, Oct. 13 is Thanksgiving) ([www.cfig.ca](http://www.cfig.ca) & [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca))
7. **Midterm #1 - Oct. 20**
  - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: food recalls in Canada - Oct. 22
8. - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: food recalls in Canada - Oct. 27
- Challenges in the Food System (text: chapt. 10, 11)
  - farming crisis
  - ocean fisheries
  - food wastage (FAO Report, 2012)
9. National Food Security Issues
  - building local/national food sovereignty
  - food security information systems
10. Regional/Local Food Security Issues (text: chapt. 21)
  - food desert research in Canada
  - video: A Place at the Table
  - ASSIGNMENT: Food Source Mapping Project #2 - Due Nov. 12
11. Review  
**Midterm #2 - Nov. 19**
12. Household Food Security in Remote Areas\*\* (text: chapt. 13; Skinner et al., 2013)
13. Review
  - **Term Papers Due - Dec. 1**