

The Politics of Food (Shelter and Community) POLI 3250 WDE (ZOOM)

Instructor name: Dr. Toby Rollo	Dates: January 5 th , 2026, to April 1 st , 2026
Times: 8:30AM to 9:50AM EST	
Office location: ZOOM	Classroom location: ZOOM and D2L
Email: trollo@lakeheadu.ca	Office hours: By Appointment

ZOOM Link:

<https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/j/92439425388?pwd=8fpd3ZINvCH4Dzyebupd7vidHvWRi.1>

D2L Link: <https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home/174910>

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introduction to the complexity of food and shelter systems in Canada and as a vehicle for Podcast creation of course discussions and presentations.

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

- Identify issues related to the corporate food system, financialized housing stock in Canada, Ontario, Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.
- Understand the fundamental elements of Food Security, Food Sovereignty, activism around social change making and social justice related to food and housing systems.
- Demonstrate their ability to write reports and essays at a level commensurate with third year university standards.
- Engage in debate and discussion regarding the “politics of the day” when and where appropriate.
- Understand and contribute to discussions around fair legal practice, equity and justice in the workplace, political protest, mediation and resolution and diversity issues affecting women, people involved in the agri-food industries in Canada, Ontario, Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.
- Participate in all aspects of the production of a course podcast.

2. COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required text for this course.

Readings and other materials will be placed on D2L site. Students are expected to attend every class and participate in all activities and discussions in a supportive and inclusive manner.

3. CLASS FORMAT

Mondays: Lecture and Discussion (Instructor Lecture 1 hour & Discussion 30 minutes)

Wednesday: Podcasts - In teams of 3, students will be responsible for the presentation of their own opinions/responses to the reading in a conversational format with pre-arranged questions and led by a Moderator.

4. EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	25%
Podcast Script Preparation	20%
Podcast Delivery	25%
Final Examination	30%

1) Attendance and Participation

- Students are expected to attend all classes. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions, though attendance is weighted more in evaluation.

2) Podcast Script Preparation

- The script is due by the end of Monday on the week in which the podcast is scheduled.
- Please consult - How to prepare Podcast Scripts
<https://creators.spotify.com/resources/create/how-to-write-podcast-scripts>

3) Podcast Delivery

- Students will be graded individually, but how well they contribute to the team effort will be taken into consideration.
 - The Moderator will introduce themselves, identify each participant, the name of the course and Module topic, identify the article, and explain the rules and timing. (5m)
 - Each participant will have 10 minutes to summarize their opinions of the article. (30m)
 - Each participant will provide a 5 minute commentary on the other's opinions. (15m)
 - Each participant will make a roughly 3 minute closing statement. (10m)
 - The Moderator will then engage the rest of the class in a discussion that includes current events Q&A. (20m)
 - The Moderator will thank the participants and close the session.
 - The Instructor will conclude the class after some closing comments. (10m)

4) Final Examination

- Take home examination will be available on March 28th – due to tollo@lakeheadu.ca by Sunday, March 30th at midnight.

5. COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Module 1 – Food

The Meaning of Food in Western and Indigenous Cultures

Week 1 (Jan. 5 & 7): Food Security/ Food Justice/ Food Sovereignty

(2020) Noll, Samantha and Esme G. Murdock. “Whose Justice is it Anyway? Mitigating the Tensions Between Food Security and Food Sovereignty.” *Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics*, 33(1), 1–14.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10806-019-09809-9>

Week 2 (Jan. 12 & 14): Food Movements and the Politics of Food Resistance

(2024) Bherer, Laurence, Pascale Dufour, and Françoise Montambeault. “Creating Local “Citizen’s Governance Spaces” in Austerity Contexts: Food Recuperation and Urban Gardening in Montréal (Canada) as Ways to Pragmatically Invent Alternatives” *Urban Affairs Review* Volume 60, Issue 5. 1507-1539.

<https://doi.org.ezproxy.lakeheadu.ca/10.1177/10780874231224359>

Extra Reading: (2024) Levkoe, Charles Z. and Colleen Hammelman, and Kristin Reynolds “Growing a Radical Food Geographies Praxis” *Radical Food Geographies : Power, Knowledge and Resistance*, Bristol University Press, 2024. 17-34.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=radical+food+geographies>

Week 3 (Jan. 19 & 21): Food Localism and Climate Change

Tchekemian, A. (2024). “The West in the Face of Crises Since the Nineteenth Century: Returning to the Land and to Locality is One of the Traditional Responses to Crises.” *Geojournal of Tourism and Geosites*, 53(2), 752–763.

<https://doi.org/10.30892/gtg.53239-1251>

Week 4 (Jan. 26 & 28): Food as Reconciliation

(2024) Regnier-Davies, J., & Edge, S. “Harnessing Food System Equity from the Ground up: Shifting Co-governance Practices in the Funding of Food Security Responses During the Pandemic Crisis in Toronto, Canada. *Food, Culture & Society*, 1–23.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2024.2383014>

Module 2 – Shelter Understanding Home

Week 5 (Feb. 2 & 4): The Politics of Building Adequate Accommodation

Extra Reading: Cairns, G., Artopoulos, G., & Day, K. (Eds.). (2017). From Conflict to Inclusion in Housing: Interaction of Communities, Residents and Activists (Vol. 1). UCL Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1xhr55k>

(2024) Taskforce for Housing and Climate. Blueprint for More and Better Housing <https://housingandclimate.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Blueprint-for-More-and-Better-Housing-Mar-2024-EN.pdf>

Week 6 (Feb. 9 & 11): Home, Housing and Homelessness

(2024) Bezgribelna, M., Hajat, S., Njenga, S., Settembrino, M. R., Vickery, J., & Kidd, S. A. “Neoliberalism, Climate Change, and Displaced and Homeless Populations: Exploring Interactions Through Case Studies.” *Humanity & Society*, 48(2–4), 107–129. Found on D2L/Courselink

READING BREAK (February 16th to 20th)

Week 7 (Feb. 23 & 25): Alternative Housing and Resistance to Renoviction

(2023) Webber, Cole and Philip Zigman. “Renovictions: Displacement and Resistance in Toronto” Renovictions TO. <https://renovictionsto.com/RenovictionsTO-RenovictionsReport-Final.pdf>

Week 8 (March 2 & 4) : The Future of Cities, Housing and Global Migration

(2022) World Economic Forum, “Accelerating Urban Inclusion for a Just Recovery: Insight Report” https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_C4IR_GFC_on_Cities_Inclusion_2022.pdf

Module 3 – Community

Thinking and Creating Community as a Precursor to Individuality

Week 9 (March 9 & 11): Designing and Creating Spaces for Dialogue and Conversation

(2018) Steil, Justin P. and Laura Humm Delgado. “Limits of diversity: Jane Jacobs, the Just City, and anti-subordination.” *Cities* Volume 91, 39–48. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264275117309988>

Week 10 (March 16 & 18): Cooperation, Sharing and Economic Stability and Resilience

(2022) Stern, Lord Nicholas, et.al. “A New Era for Investment, Finance and Internationalism: Action Now to Deliver a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Future” World Economic Forum Briefing White Paper. https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_A_New_Era_for_Investment_Finance_and_Interna

tionalism_2022.pdf

Week 11 (March 23 & 25): Creative Climate Adaptation

(2022) Ness, Ryan and Sarah Miller. Toward A Safer and More Resilient Canada: An independent Assessment of The Draft National Adaptation Strategy. Canadian Climate Institute.

<https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Toward-a-safer-and-more-resilient-canada.pdf>

Week 12 (March 30 & April 1): The Future of Food, Shelter and Community

(2024) Tansel CB, Tilley L. Reproducing socio-ecological life from below: Towards a planetary political economy of the global majority. *Review of International Studies*. 2024;50(3): 514-533

<https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.lakeheadu.ca/core/journals/review-of-international-studies/article/reproducing-socioecological-life-from-below-towards-a-planetary-political-economy-of-the-global-majority/EBF49A4FA1E8D4705361A93CC5C8BC41>

6. COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All students are expected to be respectful in their interactions with any person involved with the course.

Tests, Exams and Term Work

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in extraordinary circumstances that are supported by written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/examination/medical-notes/node/10641>

Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabus). It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and be prepared to write the examination on the scheduled date/time/location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Being caught engaging in any such activities will result in disciplinary action either within the course or at the university level.

A listing of University Regulations can be found at:

<http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loaduserredits=False>.

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of students who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly:

The minimum penalty for a student found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

A student found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

7. STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

8. LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, do not hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

Office of Human Rights and Equity. You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.