

**ADVANCED SEMINAR IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE
SOC 402/802(02) 2006**

Instructor: Michael E. Gertler

Office: D1EF 188

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Office Hours: T & W 3:00–4:00 (and by chance or appointment)

Class Time: Wednesday 11:30–2:20

Class Meeting Place: ARTS 1011

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Calendar Description: Theoretical and research approaches to the political and social economy of agriculture and food. Emphasis is given to contemporary works on agro-industrial reorganization, agro-food technology, diets, sustainable agriculture, state intervention, trade, aid, and agrarian reform.

Required Texts:

Bell, Michael Mayerfeld. 2004. *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University.

Kneen, Brewster. 2002. *Invisible Giant: Cargill and its Transnational Strategies*. 2nd Edition. Pluto Press.

Sick, Deborah. 1999. *Farmers of the Golden Bean: Costa Rican Households and the Global Coffee Economy*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press.

Course Work and Evaluation:

Class Participation & Attendance.....	20%
Reaction Papers (6 @ 4%, Pass/Fail)	24%
Research Paper (due last class, April 5).	26%
Final Exam: (to be scheduled in exam period April 10-29).....	30%

Participation and Attendance: Keeping up with readings, asking questions and contributing to discussions. You should expect to be invited/asked to comment on particular papers or themes. These aspects of your participation will be graded out of 10% and attendance also out of 10%.

Reaction Papers: Six short papers, each dealing with (at least two) assigned chapters or articles from a specific week (your choice). For graduate students these papers should be 3-4 pages and for undergraduates, 2-3 pages. The papers will be graded pass/fail and must be handed in at the end of the relevant class in order to be counted. Your reaction papers should address the following: primary arguments and conclusions; research methods and theoretical approaches; critical appreciation/assessment of the work; questions arising/raised for the sociology of agriculture?

Research paper: A paper based on rigorous library research and/or field investigations. The topic should be a problem or issue relevant to the class and the analysis should reflect the fact that this is an advanced sociology course. Pay attention to organizational, institutional, and policy issues. Employ concepts and analytical approaches used in the

sociology of agriculture. It is suggested that you meet with the instructor at least once to discuss topics, research strategies, etc. Feel free to discuss topics, approaches, sources, etc. with others. Group projects are an option and should be discussed with the instructor early in the process.

For SOC 402.3 students, the paper should be 10-12, double-spaced pages, not including references or appendices. For SOC 802.3 students this is 15-18 pages, plus refs and any appendices. It should be carefully organized, edited, and proofread. Pages should be numbered. Footnotes, citations, and references should be carefully modelled on APA style (see, for example, <http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html#12> and <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPA.html>) or some other social science model, e.g. the manuscript style guide of a journal such as *Rural Sociology*. Staple in upper left corner. Include a title page but no cover. Keep a copy. It is your responsibility to learn what practices are considered plagiarism. See <http://www.usask.ca/honesty/>

Final exam: Scheduled in the April 10-29 exam period. Essay-style questions with some choice. Useful review questions will be provided in the last class. The focus will be on theory and methods. Avoid scheduling any trips or other activities until exam dates have been announced.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

(additional items may be assigned or recommended)

Articles n reserve shelf, Resource Centre, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, Dief 191. Most assigned journal articles can also be downloaded via electronic journals on Main Library Website.

1. Introduction to Course and to the Sociology of Agriculture and Food (1/4)

Video: *Coocafe*

2. Farming Households, Local Organizations, and Global Markets I (1/11)

Kay, Cristóbal. 2000. "Latin America's Agrarian Transformation: Peasantization and Proletarianization. Pp. 123-138 in *Disappearing Peasantries: Rural Labour in Africa, Asia, and Latin America* edited by D. Bryceson, C. Kay, and J. Mooij. London: Intermediate Technology Publications.

"Introduction." Pp. xiii-xx in *Golden Bean*

"The Fate of the Family Farmer." Pp. 5-18 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 1)

"Coffee and the Family Household" Pp. 19-33 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 2)

"*Los Cafeteros* of Pérez Zeledón." Pp. 34-50 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 3)

3. Farming Households, Local Organizations, and Global Markets II (1/18)

"The Political Economy of Coffee-Farming Households." Pp. 51-71 in *Golden* (Ch 4)

"Against the Wind: Local Organizations and Change." Pp. 75-88 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 5)

"To Market, To Market." Pp. 89-104 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 6)

“When Coffee is Not Enough.” Pp. 105-120 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 7)
“Family Farmers, Global Markets, & the State. Pp.121-131 in *Golden Bean* (Ch 8)

4. The Uncertain Landscape of industrial Agriculture (1/25)

“Overture: Cultivating Sustainability.” Pp. 1-21 in *Farming for Us All*
“Intermezzo.” Pp. 22-26 in *Farming for Us All*
“Economy and Security.” Pp. 29-55 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 1)
“Community and Environment.” Pp. 56-70 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 2)
“Home and Family.” Pp. 71-84 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 3)
“Intermezzo.” Pp. 85-87 in *Farming for Us All*

5. Classical & Contemporary Political Economy of Agriculture I (2/1)

Pfeffer, Max. J. 1983. “The Social Origins of Three Systems of Farm Production in the United States.” *Rural Sociology* 48 (4): 540-562.

Mooney, Patrick H. 1983. “Towards a Class Analysis of Midwestern Agriculture.” *Rural Sociology* 48 (4): 563-584.

Bryceson, D.F. 2000. “Peasant Theories and Smallholder Policies: Past and Present.” Pp. 1-36 in *Disappearing Peasantries? Rural Labour in Africa, Asia and Latin America* edited by D. Bryceson, C. Kay, and J. Mooij. London: Intermediate Technology Publications.

6. Classical & Contemporary Political Economy of Agriculture II (2/8)

Buttel, Frederick H. 2001. “Some Reflections on Late Twentieth Century Agrarian Political Economy.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 41 (2): 165-181.

Friedland, William H. 2004. “Agrifood Globalization and Commodity Systems.” *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 12: 5-16.

National Farmers Union (Canada). 2005. *The Farm Crisis and Corporate Profits*. (16 pp. PDF document downloadable at <http://nfu.ca/>)

“Preface” Pp. vi-x in *Invisible Giant*

7. Agribusiness, Corporate Strategies, and Globalization I (2/22)

“Mutant Giants.” Pp.1-15 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 1)
“Cargill Inc. - The Numbers.” Pp. 16-20 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 2)
“Origins, Organization, and Ownership.” Pp. 21-30 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 3)
“Policy, Advocacy and Capitalist Subsidies.” Pp. 30-40 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 4)
“Creatures: Feeding and Processing.” Pp. 41-58 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 5)
“Cotton, Peanuts and Malting.” Pp.59-64 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 6)

“Processing: Oilseeds, Soybeans, Corn and Wheat.” Pp. 65-79 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 7)
“Invisible Commodities” Pp. 80-89 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 8)
“E-Commerce” Pp. 90-93 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 9)

Video: *Bhopal; The Search for Justice*. National Film Board of Canada. 2004. 52 min.

8. Agribusiness, Corporate Strategies, and Globalization II (3/1)

“Coming and Going: Transport and Storage.” Pp. 94-103 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 10)
“Typical Stories—Canada and Mexico.” Pp. 104-109 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 11)
“Fertilizer.” Pp. 110-115 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 12)
“The West Coast.” Pp. 116-120 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 13)
“Rivers of Soy—South America.” Pp. 121-133 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 14)
“Juice.” Pp. 134-141 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 15)
“The ‘Far East’.” Pp. 142-169 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 16)
“Seeds.” Pp. 170-180 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 17)
“Salt.” Pp. 181-193 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 18)
“Only Cargill’s Future?” Pp. 194-200 in *Invisible Giant* (Ch 19)

9. Restructuring & Rural Livelihoods: International Perspectives (3/8)

Kay, Cristóbal. 2002. “Why East Asia Overtook Latin America: Agrarian Reform, Industrialization and Development.” *Third World Quarterly* 23 (6): 1073-1102.

Zuo, Jiping. 2004. “Feminization of Agriculture, Relational Exchange, and Perceived Fairness in China: A Case in Guangxi Province.” *Rural Sociology* 69, 4: 510-531.

Lobley, Matt, and Clive Potter. 2004. “Agricultural Change and Restructuring. Recent Evidence from a Survey of Agricultural Households in England.” *Journal of Rural Studies* 20: 499-510.

10. The Culture of Cultivations and Cultivators II (3/15)

“Farming the Self” Pp. 91-122 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 4)
“Farming Knowledge.” Pp. 123-144 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch5)
“Intermezzo.” Pp. 145-147 in *Farming for Us All*

Dudley, Kathryn Marie. 2003. “The Entrepreneurial Self: Identity & Morality in a Midwestern farming Community.” Pp. 175-191 in *Fighting for the Farm: Rural America Transformed* edited by Jane Adams. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Gertler, Michael, JoAnn Jaffe, and Lenore Swystun. 2004. “The Old Same Place? Gender Relations on Cooperative and Conventional Farms in Saskatchewan.” *Prairie Forum* 29 (2): 253-277.

11. The Sustainable Landscape of Practical Agriculture III (3/22)

- “Rolling a New Cob.” Pp. 151-174 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 6)
“Farming with Practice.” Pp. 175-200 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 7)
“New Farms, New Selves.” Pp. 201-229 in *Farming for Us All* (Ch 8)
“*Intermezzo*.” Pp. 230-233 in *Farming for Us All*
“CODA: Sustaining Cultivation.” Pp. 234-250 in *Farming for Us All*

12. Sociology of Food and Eating (3/29)

- Lind, David, and Elizabeth Barnham. 2004. “The Social Life of the Tortilla: Food, Cultural Politics, and Contested Commodification.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 21: 47-60.
- Guthman, Julie. 2002. “Commodified Meanings, Meaningful Commodities: Re-thinking Production-Consumption Links through the Organic System of Provision.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 42 (4): 295-311.
- Jaffe, JoAnn, and Michael Gertler. 2006. “Vitual Vicissitudes: Consumer Deskillling and the (Gendered) Transformation of Food Systems.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 23 (2): 143-162.

13. Movements and Alternatives: Linking Producers and Consumers (4/5)

- Raynolds, Laura T. 2002. “Consumer/Producer Links in Fair Trade Coffee Networks.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 42 (4): 404-424.
- Hinrichs, Claire. 2003. “The Practice and Politics of Food System Localization.” *Journal of Rural Studies* 19: 33-45.
- Hassanein, N. 2003. “Practicing Food Democracy: A Pragmatic Politics of Transformation.” *Journal of Rural Studies* 19: 77-86.

Some Relevant Journals (available through U of S libraries as hard copy or as electronic journals):

C3231 P89	Prairie Forum
GN1 H91	Human Organization
HC10.E185	Economic Development & Cultural Change
HC10.S63	Society and Natural Resources
HC60. R364	Canadian Journal of Development Studies
HD1.J8	Land Economics
HD72.D48	Development and Change
HD82.W92	World Development
HD101.J86	American Journal of Agricultural Economics
HD101.L35	Land Reform, Land Settlement and Cooperatives

HD101 P4	Peasant Studies
HD1336 J68	Journal of Peasant Studies
HD1401. A38	Agriculture and Human Values
HD1491.A1J68	Journal of Rural Cooperation
HD1781 C2112	Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics
HD9000.1	Food Policy
HD9000.1.J68	J. of International Food and Agribusiness Management
HM1.C21	Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology
HT401 J68	Journal of Rural Studies
HT401 R94	Rural Sociology
HT401 S67	Sociologia Ruralis
S1.A27	Agricultural History
S622.J86	Journal of Soil and Water Conservation
TX341.F6	Food in Canada
TX341.F662	Food and Nutrition Bulletin
TX341.F68T3	Food Technology
Co-op lib	Journal of Cooperatives
	International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food
	Rural Society
	Journal of Agrarian Change

Bibliographic Tools: (Available on Library web page, get help if necessary at reference desk)

CAB

Sociological Abstracts

AGRICOLA

Pini, Barbara. 2002. "Focus Groups, Feminist Research and Farm Women: Opportunities for Empowerment in Rural Social Research." *Journal of Rural Studies* 18: 339-351.