

The Politics of Food

PSC 470 Fall 2017

T/TH 10:50-12:05, LA 104

Dr. Kimberly Weir

Email: weirk@nku.edu

Website: www.sallymundo.com/kimberly

Office: LA 206 C

Phone: 572-1483

Office Hours: M 10:00-12:45; T 3:00-3:30;
TH 3:00-4:45

Introduction

What did you have for breakfast? Did you ever stop to think about everyone and everything involved in the production of your banana or cereal or pancakes? If you skipped breakfast, was it because you didn't have the time or inclination to eat, or was it because your family just couldn't afford to provide you with three meals?

Food is something many of us take for granted. More and more of us are inundated with information about 'how many carbs' or 'how much fat' the stuff we eat packs, but most of us don't consider the political implications of food production, processing, technology, or trade. Food, however, is a politically entrenched issue that rallies interest groups, incites riots, and even provokes trade wars.

As the world increasingly becomes more globalized and interdependent, the kinds of choices we make both define and dictate political policies. When we peel a banana, rarely do we think about the impact we have on banana workers in Honduras. When we eat a candy bar, most of us don't try to piece together where Hershey or Nestlé bought the cocoa beans, milk, or nuts. Most often we don't consider the implications of choosing fast food over food prepared at home. For us, more often convenience and time take precedence over cost and nutrition. Our goal is to 'unwrap' how politically charged an issue like food actually is.

Student Learning Outcomes

In taking this course, you will:

- Learn important political science methods and concepts, and apply them to current problems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how political science applies principles and standards to the study of individuals and/or groups.
- Examine the ethical issues relevant to research and applications in political science.
- Examine the impact of diversity issues within political science.
- Communicate an understanding of the social sciences using formats appropriate to political science.

Readings

In addition to those linked on your course web page, the following text is required.

- **From Jicama to Jackfruit: The Global Political Economy of Food**, Kimberly Weir, ISBN-13: 978-1594519314

Course Requirements

- 2 Critical Thought Assignments (100 points each)= 50% of overall grade
- 3 Exercises (20 points each)= 25% of overall grade
- Class Participation= 25% of overall grade

Exercises & Critical Thought Assignments

- Exercises are application assignments, while critical thought assignments are comprehensive analyses of the materials
- Assignments and due dates are on course web page
- Assignments are evaluated through criteria laid out in *Standard Format for Written Work*
- Assignment submission
 - All assignments must be submitted to Blackboard by the due date/time specified in the assignment
 - You will receive a grade of 0 if you do not save your file as a .doc or .docx extension that can be opened in Blackboard. Do not save as a zip file.
 - You can check after you've submitted your file to ensure it can be opened.
 - You will receive a confirmation from Blackboard with a number for your submission. Keep this in case of issues.
 - Forgot to do the assignment or weren't able to load it onto Blackboard by the deadline?
 - You have 3 days to submit the assignment by noon, with a starting grade of 75%.
 - If the assignment is due on Monday, you have until Thursday at noon to submit for a grade.
 - No assignments will be accepted by email

Standard Format for Written Work

All assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

Format

- Single space name, date, assignment number on **top right hand side** of paper
- **Typed**, in hard copy form- no handwritten work is accepted; automatic zero
- Stapled (Paper-clipped **IS NOT** stapled, nor is dog-eared)
- Page numbers
- Double-spaced
- Word count listed at end of paper; paper within defined word count
- Times New Roman 12 pt. font (or Mac comparable)

Content

- Edited and proof-read for a well-written assignment
 - Clarity in writing
 - Well-organized
 - Grammatically sound
 - Appropriate length paragraphs
 - Do not pose rhetorical questions- state points
- Synthesized information
- Accurately completed what is asked of the assignment

Class Participation

Class participation is based on the following elements: class attendance, punctuality, participation, attention, and respect. Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing class.

Required participation

- All participation grades are based on the quality of your participation, not solely the quantity. Since it is necessary to give everyone an opportunity to participate, it is **imperative** that you raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking. I keep track of not only how often you participate, but take note of what you contribute.
- The use of laptops, notepads, cell phones, or any other electronic devices is prohibited.
 - In the first instance that someone uses one of these devices, the class will receive a warning.
 - Having an electronic device out qualifies as using it, as far as I'm concerned, so stow them away.
 - Any subsequent offense results in a 5 point deduction off of the first assignment
 - Emergency reason for keeping your cell phone? Clear it with me before class.
 - Note: To refer to readings or media, bring paper copies and notes to class.

Optional participation

- You can email me comments, insights, and/or criticisms on the readings. If you get these to me at least 24 hours before the start of class, I will accept these and count them toward your participation grade. Email comments **are not** a substitute for in-class participation, but can certainly enhance your overall participation grade. You will not lose participation points for not emailing comments to me.
- You can send news that is relevant to topic discussions. Along with the link for the news story, email me with your comments, criticisms, and/or any insights you have regarding the news item, and particularly, how the news relates to specific topics and concepts we cover in class. You may send me up to one news item per week, with the last one submitted no later than December 5th.

Additional Information

Regular online access is a course requirement. Course schedule is online and regularly updated, with significant changes sent by email alert.

Extra credit projects are not an option.

University Grading Scale

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92	
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69	D = 66-60	
F = 59-0		

The midterm grade is an estimate of a student's work at mid-semester and is not an absolute predictor of final grade performance or GPA.

Contact Information

- For quicker responses, email me with your questions, as I generally check my email at least once a day Monday through Friday.
- Feel free to visit me during my office hours with any questions, clarifications, or concerns you have about this course. If you cannot come during scheduled office hours, you can arrange to meet me by appointment.
- If you encounter any problems throughout the semester regarding this class or your ability to attend and participate, let me know **ASAP**. Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing class, assignments, or exams. It is not advisable to wait until the end of the semester to inform me of difficulties you are having; that is after the fact.

All University policies apply, including the honor code.

- Plagiarism is any instance of attempting to pass off the work of others as your own. This is not limited solely to directly quoting the work of others- it also includes paraphrasing the work of others without giving appropriate credit. This applies to all papers, exams, quizzes, and exercises. Plagiarizing from other students, or even from your own previous work, is not acceptable.
- The penalty for the first instance of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing is an automatic zero for the assignment in question and a 20 percent deduction in your final course grade. The penalty for a second instance of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing is a grade of 'F' for the class and dismissal from class. All instances of lying, cheating, or plagiarizing will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students.

Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice, & Organizational Leadership Common Course Policies Updated June 2015

The following policies apply to all courses taught by faculty in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Please note that individual faculty may have specific applications of these policies in their syllabi.

A. Classroom and Electronic Participation

Classroom participation is essential to the educational process. It is vital to your understanding of the course material, and to your overall performance. It is also a student responsibility. Class participation is generally defined as regular class attendance, proper class preparation, completing assignments and activities in a timely manner, completing assignments in the format requested, and participating in discussions both during and outside of class (e.g. Black Board discussions). Participation also refers to regular monitoring of and responding to electronic contact by professors via email, Black Board or other means. Participation may have a specific grade percentage in your class; see your course syllabi for specifics.

B. Class Professionalism

1. Out of respect to your fellow learners, electronic devices should be turned off during class time unless you are required to be on-call by your employer. In that case, please set your beeper / phone to a non-audible signal. If you are required to leave a beeper or cell phone on during class, inform the professor of this prior to class.
2. Disruptive behavior or conduct (whether in-class or electronic) that demeans fellow class members or the instructor will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Section V: Academic Policies & Processes <http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies>
3. It is important that work with your name attached is, in fact, solely your work unless properly referenced or cited. In these days of increased access to information, it is critical that you understand the meaning, seriousness and consequences of plagiarism. If you ever have a question about giving proper credit for academic work, please consult your instructor well in advance of an assignment due date. It is expected that students will write their research papers to meet the learning objectives and educational requirements specific to this class. While a general topic area may be suitable for research that may potentially be utilized in more than one paper, submission of the same paper in two or more courses is not acceptable and will result in a failing grade. Students must notify the professor if their paper on this topic had been previously submitted in another course or will be submitted in another course.
4. The work you will do in this course and your behavior in this course are subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. By being a student at NKU you make a commitment that individually and collectively, you will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements. You also make a commitment to behavior in a professional manner, especially when involved in academic activities off campus such as travel courses or CCSA Study Abroad. For specifics concerning the honor code, see the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities Section V, subsection G: Student Honor Code: Cheating & Plagiarism. <http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies>

C. Student Honor Code

This Student Honor Code (the “Honor Code”) is a commitment by students of Northern Kentucky University, through their matriculation or continued enrolment at the University to adhere to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. It is a commitment individually and collectively that the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

The purpose of the Honor Code is to establish standards of academic conduct for students at Northern Kentucky University and to provide a procedure that offers basic assurances of fundamental fairness to any person accused of violations of these rules. Each Northern Kentucky student is bound by the provisions of the Honor Code and is presumed to be familiar with all of its provisions. Students also should aspire to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest degree of ethical integrity in all matters, whether covered in the Honor Code or not. The success of this commitment begins in the diligence with which students uphold the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code.

Students may view the complete honor code at

<http://www.nku.edu/content/dam/nkuhome/docs/HonorCode.pdf>

D. Right to Revise a Syllabus

A syllabus is required for every class and will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. Faculty reserve the right to revise the course syllabus as needed. Changes in the specific course schedule may happen frequently, so you need to keep abreast of these changes regularly. Should a major change or update occur in the syllabus (e.g. moving a specified test date, specifying the requirements of an assignment, etc.) the specific change will be announced at least a week in advance of any activity due date (e.g. assignment, paper, test). These changes should be communicated in the manner other course updates are (paper distribution, email, or posting to Blackboard).

E. Accommodations Due to Disability

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, Northern Kentucky University will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from the Disability Programs & Services Office (SU 303), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations. More information can be found at <http://disability.nku.edu>

F. Student Responsibilities to Meet Course Obligations

You are responsible for all course assignments including class preparation, class attendance, class activities, tests, papers, labs, projects, group work or other course assignments. By reviewing the syllabus at the beginning of a course, you are responsible for meeting all specific course obligations. Additionally, some faculty may even require that each student initial a document to recognize their course obligations. Failure to attend classes, or meet course obligations is a serious matter and it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor should you have difficulty with meeting any course obligation. Faculty may, at their discretion, reduce grades or even fail you for not meeting specified course obligations, including but not limited to, class attendance, taking tests at a specified time, turning in papers on time and in the format required and other assignments. It is the faculty’s discretion to determine the consequences of not meeting a course obligation, and many times the specific provisions and penalties are specified in the syllabus. Faculty may also require written documentation verifying your inability to meet a course obligation.

G. Student Evaluation of Instructor and Course

Northern Kentucky University takes Instructor and Course Evaluations very seriously as an important means of gathering information for the enhancement of learning opportunities for its students. It is an important responsibility of NKU students as citizens of the University to participate in the instructor and course evaluation process. During the two weeks’ prior to the end of each semester classes, you will be asked to reflect upon what you have learned in this course, the extent to which you have invested the necessary effort to

maximize your learning, and the role your instructor has played in the learning process. It is very important that you complete the online evaluations with thoughtfully written comments.

Student evaluations of courses and instructors are regarded as strictly confidential. They are not available to the instructor until after final grades are submitted, and extensive precautions are taken to prevent your comments from being identified as coming from you. Students who complete an evaluation for a particular course (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) will be rewarded for their participation by having access to their course grade as soon as that grade is submitted by the instructor. On the other hand, any student who does not complete the course evaluation (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) should expect to incur a two week delay in access to his or her course grade beyond the university's official date for grade availability. To complete online evaluations go to <http://eval.nku.edu>. Click on "student login" and use the same USERNAME and PASSWORD as used on campus.

In addition, you should be aware of:

- Evaluations can affect changes in courses. Evaluations without comments are less valuable and less credible than those filled out thoughtfully. Comments that are expressed well are more effective than those that are not.
- Positive feedback is just as important as criticism. Moreover, negative evaluations without any explanation and specifics are not especially useful.
- Once grades are submitted, all evaluations are read not only by the instructor, but also by the instructor's department chairperson.
- Evaluations not only provide feedback to your instructor, but also provide information to the department chair for use in performance evaluations. This information affects reappointments, promotions, salaries, and teaching assignments.

H. Diversity Statement

Diversity describes an inclusive community of people with varied human characteristics, ideas, and world views related, but not limited, to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, socio-economic status, geographical region, or ancestry. Institutions that value diversity provide a supportive and safe environment that respects those human differences.

H. Grade Appeal

The following link explains the grade appeal process and policy. Any grade appeal needs to follow the process and the time frame listed on the policy.

<http://scra.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies>

I. Midterm Grades (for Undergraduate Courses)

Mid-term grades will be posted in myNKU by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar.

<http://registrar.nku.edu/academiccalendar.html>

Midterm grades will be provided to all students in 100 - 400 level courses, except in cases where the Department Chair and Dean of Arts & Sciences have waived midterm grade reporting for pedagogical reasons. Midterm grades are only an estimate of performance as of the middle of the semester, and are not an absolute predictor of final performance.

J. Non-Attendance Policy

NKU students are expected to attend the first day of each course for which they are enrolled.

For classes meeting more than once per week: If a student does not attend the first class meeting and has not contacted the instructor in advance to declare this absence, the instructor may drop the student for non-attendance. If the student also misses the second class meeting and still has not contacted the instructor about the absences beforehand, the instructor is compelled to drop this student for non-attendance.

For classes meeting only once per week: If the student misses the first class meeting and has not contacted the instructor about this absence beforehand, the instructor is compelled to drop this student for non-attendance.

For online classes: If the student does not log onto Blackboard and access course materials or contact the instructor during the first week of classes, the instructor is compelled to drop this student for non-participation (i.e., non-attendance).

K. Credit-Hour Policy Statement

In accordance with federal policy, NKU defines a credit hour as the amount of work represented in the achievement of student learning outcomes (verified by evidence of student achievement) that reasonably approximates one hour (50 minutes) of classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work. For every course credit hour, a typical student should expect to spend at least three hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work including, but not limited to, class meeting time, reading, reviewing, organizing notes, studying and completing assignments. At least an equivalent amount of time is expected for other academic activities such as online courses, laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Estimates of the time required for a typical student to complete course expectations are as follows:

Class meeting time	29.5 Hours
Readings/ media preparation	85.5 Hours
Assignment preparation	20 Hours
Total	135 Hours