

Course number		G-ECON31 6A594 LE82 G-ECON31 6A594 LE43			
Course title (and course title in English)	International Agribusiness Studies International Agribusiness Studies		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Graduate School of Economics Professor, HISANO SHUJI	
Target year	1st year students or above	Number of credits	2	Year/semesters	2023/First semester
Days and periods	Mon.3,4 隔週開講	Class style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English
[Overview and purpose of the course]					
<p>Our consistent and overarching theme of this course is how to investigate and understand the power of business as a political actor, especially the role of multinational corporations vis-a-vis the role of states and civil society actors. In the years of 2019 and 2020, this course provided a comprehensive analysis of social, economic, political, cultural and environmental issues surrounding specific agricultural products along the agri-food value chains (a global flow of the food from upstream to downstream across borders). In the year of 2021, we turned our attention to one of the ongoing structural processes with profound influences on agri-food systems and rural economies around the world: financialisation. Through reading a relevant textbook, we critically examined the impacts of financialisation in the food industry and in farming and forestry, as well as the impacts on rural actors and communities. Then in the year of 2022, we read together articles on the political economy of healthy and sustainable food systems published in International Journal of Health Policy and Management as a special issue on Political Economy of Food Systems. They include several systemic review articles using various methods of literature search, review, and analysis, while some others use narrative review methods to analyse policy making and governance processes. Through reading these articles, we learned how to conduct qualitative literature reviews and narrative analyses. Tackling these topics in the past years, what we kept in mind in our review and discussion was power relations within and behind the process of agri-food businesses development and transformation; how powerful business actors are able to exert a direct and indirect influence on the process of international and national policy making (agenda setting) and governance of agri-food systems.</p> <p>This semester, however, we will turn our eyes to a rather broader framework, or research agenda, to explore the pressing issues that confront food systems and the emerging responses to them: from the contribution of food production to climate breakdown to the emergence of regionalised and regenerative food systems; from the contribution of alternative proteins in dietary change to the potential of digital agriculture in sustainability transition; from the persistence of food poverty to the development of urban food systems; etc.</p>					
[Course objectives]					
<p>By the end of this course, having read the literature and actively participated in discussion, students should be able to acquire a deep understanding and critical insight into the state of global food systems, the process and mechanism of food systems governance, and the role of powerful political and business actors: how and in what way they are able to exert their influence on food systems governance; and if and how it is possible to challenge such a hegemonic regime and bring food systems governance more democratic and genuinely participatory.</p>					
[Course schedule and contents]					
<p>We are going to read the following book (tentatively): Colin L. Sage, ed. (2022) A Research Agenda for Food Systems. Edward Elgar Publishing.</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Continue to International Agribusiness Studies (2)</p>					

International Agribusiness Studies (2)

Week 1 (April 10): Guidance

Week 2-3 (April 17): Introduction: A Research Agenda for Food Systems by Colin L. Sage

Week 4-5 (May 1): The rise of big food and agriculture: corporate influence in the food system by Jennifer Clapp / The food system, planetary boundaries and eating for 1.5 ° C: the case for mutualism and commensality within a safe and just operating space for humankind by Colin L. Sage

Week 6-7 (May 22): Agricultural labour in the global food system by Alicia Reigada and Carlos de Castro / Food systems and food poverty by Martin Caraher

Week 8-9 (June 5): Reconfiguring animals in food systems: an agenda for research by Lewis Holloway / The fourth agricultural revolution: technological developments in primary food production by David Christian Rose, Mondira Bhattacharya, Auvikki de Boon, Ram Kiran Dhulipala, Catherine Price and Juliette Schillings

Week 10-11 (June 19): Of fake meat and an anxious Anthropocene: towards a cultural political economy of alternative proteins and their implications for future food systems by Alexandra E. Sexton and Michael K. Goodman / Urban food systems: the case for municipal action by Jess Halliday

Week 12-13 (July 3): Circular food systems: a blueprint for regenerative innovations in a regional UK context by Steffen Boehm, Rebecca Sandover, Stefano Pascucci, Laura Colombo, Sophie Jackson and Matt Lobley / Design at the end of the food system: hybrid foodscapes in the realm of consumption by Kata Fodor

Week 14-15 (July 17 *national holiday): Wrap-up discussion

[Course requirements]

No prerequisite knowledge or skill required other than English language ability sufficient to interact actively in class.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Grading will be carried out on a basis of active class participation (70%) and assignment presentation/report (30%).

[Textbooks]

Colin L. Sage 『A Research Agenda for Food Systems』 (Edward Elgar, 2022) ISBN:978 1 80088 025 2
Reading materials will be made available in advance through the course mailing list and/or a cloud system (e.g. Google Drive).

[References, etc.]

(Reference books)

Recommended reading materials will be made available in advance as well as in class through the course mailing list and/or a cloud system (e.g. Google Drive).

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students are required to read assigned book chapters for each class as well as other relevant reading materials so that they will be able to actively participate in discussions.

(Other information (office hours, etc.))

Please note that this course is designed for research masters and PhD students of the Graduate School of

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International Agribusiness Studies (3)

Economics, including those of East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies Course. Therefore, the style and structure of the classes could be different from those offered at the Business School.

The schedule of the classes is not yet fixed. Basically, the classes are offered on alternate Mondays, from 13:30 to 16:30.

*Please visit KULASIS to find out about office hours.