



Full Syllabus

Course Title

Introduction to food systems and sustainable diets

Lecturer

Dr Alon Shepon

Semester

Fall

Course requirements

Attendance - Participation in 11 lectures
Participation and lead of debates (groups)
Scientific reading
Love for numbers and guesstimations (back-of-the-envelope calculations)
Final exam

Final grade components

Participation and lead of debates (groups) - 20%
Scientific reading - Four academic papers (see list below) - 10%
Final exam - 70%

Course schedule

Class no. / Date	Subject	Notes	Debate	Assignments	
1. 15.3.23	Introduction to the course. Introduction to the global food system				
2. 22.3.23	Health and Nutrition	Dr. Sigal Tepper		(Gordon et al. 2017)	
3. 29.3.23	Agriculture productivity and the Green revolution	+Back-of-the-envelope calculations: was Malthus right? How much food is needed to feed humanity by 2050?			
4. 19.4.23	Political economy: industrialization, trade and consolidation	Discussion on the movie Food Inc		Movie Food Inc	



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5. 3.5.23	Land	Back-of-the-envelope calculations: How much land is needed to feed humanity?			
6. 10.5.23	Social aspects of foods	Dr Rafi Grosplik	Local foods vs globalized system		
7. 17.5.23	Environmental aspects of foods			(Poore and Nemecek 2018)	
8. 24.5.23	Aquatic foods	+back-of the envelope calculation			
9. 2.6.23 (Friday)	Urban food systems	A tour of urban foodscapes in Tel Aviv. It takes place on Friday, not on the regular time slots of the course.			
10. 7.6.23	Technology and innovation	Plantish	Alternative protein vs. meat/fish protein		
11. 14.6.23	Food and climate change				
12. 21.6.23	Food policy		Democratic vs autocratic food systems	(Huang et al. 2022)	
13. 28.6.23	How will we feed the world in 2050? In search of solutions to the global food crisis			(Springmann et al. 2018)	

Required course reading



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Gordon, Line J, Victoria Bignet, Beatrice Crona, Patrik JG Henriksson, Tracy Van Holt, Malin Jonell, Therese Lindahl, et al. 2017. "Rewiring Food Systems to Enhance Human Health and Biosphere Stewardship." *Environmental Research Letters* 12 (10): 100201.

Huang, Jikun, Lynnette M. Neufeld, Ousmane Badiane, Patrick Caron, and Lisa S. Forsse. 2022. "Equitable Livelihoods Must Underpin Food Systems Transformation." *Nature Food* 2022 3:6 3 (6): 394–96. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00529-4>.

Poore, J., and T. Nemecek. 2018. "Reducing Food's Environmental Impacts through Producers and Consumers." *Science* 360 (6392): 987–92. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag0216>.

Springmann, Marco, Michael Clark, Daniel Mason-D'Croz, Keith Wiebe, Benjamin Leon Bodirsky, Luis Lassalle, Wim de Vries, et al. 2018. "Options for Keeping the Food System within Environmental Limits." *Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0594-0>.

Optional course reading

Recommended book [readings](#)

Comments

The curriculum is optional and may change depending on the material covered in class or other relevant topics or publications.