“Production, Consumption and the Politics of Food”

(Ag_Econ 4301-01 & Ru_Soc 4301-01)

MW 2:00-3:00 pm, 146 Mumford Hall

Instructor: Pedro Dozi (Dozip@missouri.edu)

This course is designed to study the influences that current societal perceptions, technology, marketing and the general environment have on the food available and the ultimate well-being that it provides to people. This course focuses on food dynamics—that is, production methods, distribution factors, taste preferences, uses of food in various contexts, such as celebrations, its relationship to people, and the way it shapes relationships between people. This course also deals with how economic factors, such as price setting and food supply, influence how, who, where, and when food is produced and consumed. Important food issues will be addressed, including sustainable production, organic farming, biotechnology and genetically modified foods, and such policy issues as government and private food regulation, the influence of marketing and lobbying by the food industry, and the international environment surrounding food.