

FYS 1000-34: The Economics of What We Eat

Loyola Marymount University, Fall 2020



Instructor: Dr. Erin Kaplan

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Office Hours by Appointment

When: M/W 2:00-4:00pm Pacific Time

Schedule: <https://erinkaplan.youcanbook.me/>
or via email

Writing Instructor: Angelique Young

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Office Hours by Appointment

When: W 12:00 – 2:00pm Pacific Time

Schedule: via email

Course Information

Class Times: T/R 3:50-5:20pm Pacific Time

Class Meeting ID: [949 2504 1296](#)

Password: yay_food

Course Description:

Everyone eats. What and how we eat depend on a variety of social and economic influences. In this seminar we will learn a bit of food history, explore contemporary food trends, and study the complex global economic systems that shape what's on our plates. Topics will include international trade, food labeling, US agricultural policy, food insecurity, the environmental impact of industrial agriculture, and trends in consumer tastes. If you are fascinated by food and want to learn more, this is the class for you.

FYS Description:

The First Year Seminar brings students into the university through close engagement with full-time faculty. Faculty work with a writing instructor and LMU librarians to introduce students to intellectual rigor, critical thinking, and effective writing skills while laying the foundation for a life-long commitment to learning. Instructors share the example of life-long commitment to intellectual curiosity and creative activity by developing topics that grow from their own work and interests. Aimed at improving students' skills in written and oral communication and information literacy, the FYS invites students to engage critically and reflectively with scholarly discourse, analyzing and producing texts in a variety of media formats. FYS activities, pedagogies and experiences aim to develop intellectual community inside and outside the classroom. The theme of this course is Science, Nature, and Society.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Understand & appreciate the intellectual rigor and academic excellence that defines an LMU education.
- Engage critically and reflectively in scholarly discourse.
- Learn to read critically and carefully.
- Exercise critical thinking in oral discussion and writing.
- Be able to evaluate sources for quality (e.g., by learning to differentiate between scholarly and popular sources). Acquire research skills including use of the library catalog and electronic databases to retrieve books or articles, whether in print or online.

Course Materials:

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|--|----------|
| • Lunsford, A. (2019) <i>EasyWriter</i> 7 th ed. | Required |
| • Course readings, podcasts, and videos accessed through Brightspace | Required |
| • McCloskey, D. (2019) <i>Economical Writing</i> 3 rd ed. | Optional |

Computing and Software Requirements:

- Ensure your machine complies with LMU's [Minimum Technology Requirements](#)
- *Brightspace* – All assignments and announcements will be posted on Brightspace, so please check the course page frequently. You should opt to receive notifications of Brightspace announcements either via email or SMS.
- *Zoom* – All class meetings and office hours will be held on Zoom. You must be logged in through LMU in order to access the class Zoom meeting.

Course Policies

Attendance: Success in this class requires regular attendance, preparation, and willingness to ask questions and engage in discussion. Students with recurring extracurricular commitments should speak with me in advance about their anticipated absence(s).

Office Hours: Students are encouraged to attend office hours. The material in this course can be complex and the writing process can be mysterious to students. You should consider office hours an additional resource to aid in your learning. If you are unable to attend the regularly scheduled office hours, please contact your instructor to schedule a time to meet.

Email: Email is the best way to get in contact with us. However, if you send me an email within 24 hours of a deadline, do not expect me to respond before the exam/due date.

Workload Expectations: This course is worth 4 credit hours. The university recommends that students spend, on average, 9 hours per week outside of class, on assignments, readings, and studying for exams.

Mutual Respect: Classroom discussion is meant to allow us to hear a variety of viewpoints, and respectful disagreement and civilized debate are highly encouraged. For this reason, it is vital that we create an environment of mutual respect. Remember that each of us has a unique set of experiences and opinions, and that this diversity is valuable both inside and outside of the classroom.

Academic Honesty: Academic misconduct includes the following examples as well as other similar conduct, with the aim of falsely representing a student's academic performance: cheating, plagiarizing, using unauthorized aids on exams, unauthorized sharing of course materials, falsifying records, or assisting another individual in any of the above. All instances of academic misconduct will be reported and could result in consequences including receiving no credit for assignments/tests, failing the class, and expulsion. For details see LMU's [Academic Honesty Policy](#).

Turnitin: Loyola Marymount University has partnered with the third-party application Turnitin to help maintain our standards of excellence in academic integrity. Turnitin is a suite of tools that provide instructors with information about the authenticity of submitted work and facilitates the process of grading for instructors. Submitted files are compared against an extensive database of content comprising of over 165 million journal articles, 1 billion student papers, and 62 billion current and archived websites. Turnitin produces a similarity report and a similarity score. A similarity score is the percentage of a document that is similar to content held within the database. A similarity report gives the instructor more information about any potential matches and their sources. Turnitin does not determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred. Instead, it gives instructors the information they need to determine the authenticity of work as a part of a larger process. All submissions to this course may be checked using Turnitin. More information can be found [here](#).

Issues with Technology: If you are having trouble with technology necessary to access course materials, complete an assignment, or write an exam, email me as soon as possible, so that we can work out how to address the immediate issue. You can get technology support by calling, (310) 338-7777, or emailing, servicedesk@lmu.edu, the [ITS Service Desk](#).

Accommodations: Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning, Physical, or Psychiatric) needing academic accommodations should contact the DSS Office (Daum Hall 2nd floor, 310-338-4216) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

The Writing Center at LMU: An important part of improving your writing is getting feedback and revision suggestions on your writing projects in progress. The Writing Center offers free tutoring sessions (online or face-to-face) in which you can get feedback from a peer writer on your digital and print texts for any class at any stage in your process. To make an appointment with a tutor, follow the "Writing & Course Tutoring" link in myLMU. Additional contact information: writing@lmu.edu | 310-338-2847.

Course Grades

Rather than using a traditional points-for-performance grading system, your final grade will be determined by your level of effort (or labor) in this course. I have chosen to use a labor-based grading contract to 1) encourage students to focus on learning 2) give students more autonomy over their work including room to experiment and room to fail 3) promote a classroom culture of curiosity, comradery, and community and 4) give students more flexibility in their academic focus.

Although you will not receive grades on individual assignments, you will still get plenty of feedback from both your instructors and classmates. Within this grading system, feedback has the sole purpose of encouraging you to cultivate your own skill, particularly regarding critical thinking, information literacy, and written and oral communication. While you should be responsive to feedback in subsequent assignments and revisions, we recognize that the most important feedback you obtain will be through self-assessment and reflection.

Assignments: Below is a tentative summary of the assignments for this course. You should check Brightspace frequently for an updated list of assignments and deadlines. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments will be due at 11:00pm PT on the due date.

Required

- Pre-class readings, videos, podcasts, and related activities
 - o Pre-class assignments must be completed by 12:00pm PT (noon) on the day of class.
- Attendance and participation in class discussions and activities
- Library Information Literacy Modules
- Peer Reviews (4)
- Student Led Discussions (2)
- Personal Narrative
- Research Paper
 - o Proposal
 - o Literature Review
 - o Analysis Paper
 - o Final Paper

Optional

- Read and reflect on *Economical Writing* by Deirdre N. McCloskey
- Attend consultations at the Writing Center
- Complete additional pre-class and post-class assignments

Letter Grades: The following rubric will be used to determine your final letter grade.

Student earning an A:

- Attends class prepared and participates in class discussions.
- Completes all assignments on time.
- Nearly all work aligns with the standards and spirit of the assignment.
- Most assignments are not “kicked back” in need of revising and resubmission.
- Completes 80%+ of optional assignments.
- Attends at least one tutoring session at the writing center.

Student earning a B:

- Attends class prepared and participates in class discussions.
- Completes all required assignments on time.
- Usually submits work that aligns with the standards and spirit of the assignment.
- Any assignments that are “kicked back” are revised and resubmitted in a timely fashion.

Student earning a C:

- Usually attends class prepared and participates in class discussions.
- Completes most required assignments on time.
- Some assignments do not align with the standards and spirit of the assignment, and the student opts not to revise and resubmit.

Student earning a D:

- Does not regularly attend class and participate in class discussions. OR
- Has several missing or incomplete required assignments.

Student earning an F:

- Does not regularly attend class and participate in class discussions. AND
- Has several missing or incomplete required assignments.

Optional Assignments: The criteria above describe general grade categories, but ANY student can improve their grade by completing optional assignments. Completing nearly all the optional assignments can improve your grade by a full letter. For example, if your work generally falls into the C category, but you complete nearly all the optional assignments, then you will earn a B for your final grade. Note that to receive credit you must complete optional assignments by their due date. You will not be able to “catch up” if you leave everything until the end of the semester.

Pluses / Minuses: I will be using the full range of grades available at LMU (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, C-, D, F). If a student generally meets the criteria for a B, for example, but attends a tutoring session at the writing center and completes a few optional assignments, their grade will increase to a B+.

Course Credit: You should be aware that you must receive a C- or better in this course in order to fulfill the First Year Seminar requirement within LMU’s Core Curriculum.

University Deadlines: Please take note of the following important grade-related deadlines.

September 4th: Last day to add or drop a class without a grade of W.

November 6th: Last day to withdraw from classes or apply for Credit/No Credit grading

Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be announced on Brightspace.

| Week | Date | Class Sessions | Major Writing Assignments | Due Date |
|--------|-----------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1-Sep | Welcome | | |
| | 3-Sep | What is Economics? | Personal Narrative | Friday, Sept. 4 |
| 2 | 8-Sep | Agricultural Revolutions | | |
| | 10-Sep | Writing Lab 1: Making the Collegiate Leap | | |
| 3 | 15-Sep | Globalization of our Food Systems | Paper Proposal | Wednesday, Sept. 16 |
| | 17-Sep | Peer Review for Paper Proposal | Peer Review | Friday, Sept. 18 |
| 4 | 22-Sep | 20th US Food Systems - Production | Revised Paper Proposal | Monday, Sept. 21 |
| | 24-Sep | Writing Lab 2: Research and Formatting | | |
| 5 | 29-Sep | 20th US Food Systems - Consumption | | |
| | 1-Oct | Domestic Agricultural Policy - The Farm Bill | | |
| 6 | 6-Oct | International Agricultural Trade | | |
| | 8-Oct | Writing Lab 3: The Writing Process, Logic, and Assumption Analysis | | |
| 7 | 13-Oct | Regulating Agriculture-Related Pollution | | |
| | 15-Oct | Environmental Resource Management | | |
| 8 | 20-Oct | Labor Policy | Literature Review | Wednesday, Oct. 21 |
| | 22-Oct | Peer Review of Literature Review | Peer Review | Friday, Oct. 23 |
| 9 | 27-Oct | Food Safety and Standards | Final Literature Review | Monday, Oct. 26 |
| | 29-Oct | Nutrition | | |
| 10 | 3-Nov | Food Labeling | | |
| | 5-Nov | Writing Lab 4: Research Integration & Avoiding Plagiarism | | |
| 11 | 10-Nov | Food Restrictions | | |
| | 12-Nov | Domestic Food Insecurity and Disparities | | |
| 12 | 17-Nov | Global Food Insecurity | Analysis | Wednesday, Nov. 18 |
| | 19-Nov | Peer Review of Analysis Paper | Peer Review | Friday, Nov. 20 |
| 13 | 24-Nov | <i>Class Canceled - Empirical Work</i> | Final Analysis | Monday, Nov. 23 |
| | 26-Nov | <i>No Class - Thanksgiving</i> | | |
| 14 | 1-Dec | Food Retailing and Restaurants | | |
| | 3-Dec | Student Writing Conferences | | |
| 15 | 8-Dec | The Impact of Covid on the Food System | Final Paper | Wednesday, Dec. 9 |
| | 10-Dec | Peer Review of Final Paper | Peer Review | Friday, Dec. 11 |
| Finals | Dec 14-18 | | Final Paper Revision | Tuesday, Dec 15 |