World Food and Fiber  
PSSC 392 – 01 and 02  

Course Description:  
PSSC 392 is an exploration of the cultural and technological developments that have shaped the current trends of agricultural globalization. This course addresses historical, environmental, technological, socio-economic, and political factors that have affected worldwide production and trading of food and fiber. The course includes a focus on the evolution of agriculture and technology over the world as it has been shaped by the culture of people and world population growth.  
PSSC 392 is an upper division and approved General Education course in the Sustainability, Food Studies, and Global Development Pathways. The course is in the area B (Natural Science) and fulfills the Global Cultures (GC) course requirement.

Term  
Spring 2017

Instructor  
Lee Altier

Office Hours and Contact Information  
Office hours: M 1:45-4:45, W 2:45-4:45  
L.Altier@csuchico.edu  
221 Plumas Hall  
530 636-2525

Course Goals:  
The course is designed to provide students with an understanding and analysis of:  
• Origins and evolution of agriculture and technology over the world  
• World farming systems and food production as it has been shaped by science, technology, culture, and population growth  
• Factors that affect the spread of food production and the reasons that caused food production to spread at different rates on different continents  
• Mechanisms that control population growth and food supply  
• Biological systems that support life on earth  
• Food and fiber production and processing in relationship to global distribution and trade policies.  
• Current critical food and fiber production issues facing the globe  
• Environmental degradation and resource depletion and their effect on food and fiber production  
• Future opportunities for improving food security
General Education Course Outcomes
With diligence, each student can acquire the following benefits from this course:

- **Sustainability**: this is intrinsic to the entire course. Students will demonstrate knowledge and assess the impacts of management on essential resources and ecosystem services on a worldwide scale. They will demonstrate knowledge about the contribution of different countries to the food supply and an appreciation for global diversity. By the end of the semester, they will understand the ramifications of their own decisions on the sustainability of their own quality of life.

- **Active Inquiry**: comprises much of the activities in the course. Students will ask questions underlying complex conflicts over resources; they will research and identify scholarly sources of information; and they will interpret information in an effort to evaluate possible solutions.

- **Critical Thinking**: Students will identify questions that are important to them and consider the kind of evidence that would help them to answer those questions. They will analyze the evidence in global and local contexts.

Texts & Equipment
**Required textbook**: *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond

All other readings are available online this semester. You may read them online or print them out as you like.

Many of the readings are PDF files that require the Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not already have this on your computer, it is freely available from: [http://get.adobe.com/reader/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/)

**Required clicker**: i>Clicker2 available in the bookstore.

**NOTES:**
- Bring your clicker to every class, so you get full credit for participation;
- Do not share your clicker or use another person’s clicker. It is up to you to manage your own clicker and course work. Violations will be treated as an abuse of academic integrity;
- There will be **two free days** during the semester for malfunctioning or forgotten clickers.
- If your clicker is lost or malfunctioning, get it replaced or fixed as soon as possible; count it as one of your free days.
- If you lose or need to replace your clicker, you will need to re-register your new device in order to receive credit for your submissions.

Computer Use
Use of a computer and the internet is required for accessing course material in Blackboard Learn via the Chico State portal. Be sure to determine immediately that your computer and access to the internet is adequate to engage in the Blackboard Learning Management System (Bb). Computer support ([http://www.csuchico.edu/itss/](http://www.csuchico.edu/itss/)) is located on the 1st floor of the Meriam Library, room 142.
Grading
Exams and project report (case study) are recorded as a percentage score. Most other assignments are recorded on a 0-200 scale. A "200" indicates that you received full credit; "100" indicates that something was deficient or incomplete; (and "300," in rare circumstances, is given if your assignment was way above the norm).

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<td>Assignments and online quizzes</td>
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<td>Case Report</td>
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<td>Research Project</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam 1</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam 2</td>
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Course Management/Policies
Students are expected to read and adhere to all course policies found the College of Agriculture Common Course Policies found at:
The course is divided up into several modules, comprising the major topics of the course. Each module consists of several activities that you will complete in sequence. Activities include reading, listening to videos and sound clips, and writing assignments.

Electronics (cell phones, laptops, iPads, etc.):

- Not allowed in the classroom unless specifically required for an activity. Keep them put away! If you need to text or make a call, please leave the classroom.
- If you have a special need for an electronic device, such as for note taking, see the instructor.

Assignments:
Assignments are planned according to the calendar. Go through each module and complete the activities and reading according to the deadlines. This will be indicated in the schedule and modules.

- Read the entire assignment descriptions carefully! For assignments requiring a response, you will not receive full credit unless you participate in discussion by responding to and commenting on other postings.
- It is your responsibility to post assignments in the proper place as shown in the assignment description. If you post them somewhere else, you may not receive credit.
- For any assignment, each person is responsible for submitting the results of her/his own work. Each person is also responsible to see that her/his work is not used or submitted by another unless expressly permitted (by the instructor) and is appropriately acknowledged.
- It is recommended that students keep a copy of all submitted assignments.

Research Project:
This will comprise several parts, including answering preliminary questions, turning in a draft, critiquing other students’ drafts, and then submitting the final version. If you have a concern about how your paper was graded, you should put it in writing in an email to the instructor within two weeks of receiving back your graded paper.

Exams:
There are three types of exam questions: multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The final will mostly be multiple choice and true-false questions. It will be cumulative, so it will be helpful to review study guides in the modules and the previous exams.

Class group work and participation:
Students are expected to fully participate in class and group discussions. Contribution of individuals to the group effort is important. Some of the group work will involve commenting on homework submissions and providing peer reviews to group members.

Response to study guide questions:
These are not required to be turned in, however students are strongly urged to answer the study guide questions to focus their attention on key concepts and to prepare for exams!

Late work:
Depending on the assignment, late work may not be accepted. Talk to me before the due date if
you have a problem. Credit for late submissions will be reduced by 50%.

**Readings:**
Assigned as in the modules. Readings for which there are study guide questions are the most important for exam study. The other readings are to help you with gaining an understanding of course concepts.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please email, make an appointment, or see us during office hours as soon as possible. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the ARC Office (Accessibility Resource Center) (http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/) on the campus (tel: 530 898-5959) to establish a record of their disability.

**Extra credit:**
There are extra credit assignments available. However, they are not intended as substitutes for the regular assignments. **You will not be eligible for extra credit if you have missed more than two assignments or reports.** All extra credit is due before the end of the semester as indicated in the assignment schedule.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**
Be certain that you understand the Academic Honesty Policy at Chico State. The policy applies to all work done for this class - including homework, exams, and reports. California State University, Chico is committed to a campus culture that takes pride in fostering an environment of academic integrity, academic freedom, and high-quality learning environments. These efforts are guided by the following statement from the university president:
“The students, faculty, administrators, and staff of CSU, Chico are committed to a culture of honesty in which members of the community accept responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all they say, write, and create.”

NOTE: Submission to Turnitin may be required for some assignments. It will provide a report indicating any text from other sources that may be improperly used or referenced. If you submit your paper before the due date, you will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit your paper before your paper is graded.

For any assignment, even if you work with a partner or a study group, each person is responsible for submitting the results of her/his own work. Each person is also responsible to see that her/his work is not used or submitted by another unless expressly permitted (by the instructor) and is appropriately acknowledged. For more information, see the Executive Memorandum 04-36 and the current CSUC catalog.

If there is evidence that you have been involved in any form of academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" grade for the course, and a report will be provided to Student Judicial Affairs for further action.

**Policies Regarding Personal Conduct**
- It is the student’s responsibility to meet all appropriate deadlines for adding, withdrawing, etc. These deadlines can be found on the University web site at: http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/
- All class participants are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to other students and the
instructor.

- All students have the right and privilege to learn in the class, free from harassment and disruption.
- Inappropriate or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, nor will lewd or foul language.

**Student Services**

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. Student services information can be found at: [http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students/](http://www.csuchico.edu/current-students/).

**Student Learning and Writing Center**

The mission of the Student Learning Center (SLC) is to provide services that will assist CSU, Chico students to become independent learners. The SLC prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. The SLC is located in SSC 340 and is online at [http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/](http://www.csuchico.edu/slc/).

*The Writing Center now offers online services for all students!*  **Sign up here to have limitless access to the online Writing Center and free help with your writing via internet.**