# Course Outline Form: Fall 2015

## General Information

**Course Title:** ENVS\*2130Eating Sustainably in Ontario

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to introduce students to the science behind food related issues within the context of Canadian agriculture and food systems. The course will provide students with an overview of agriculture in Canada and an opportunity to discuss both sides of current debates over food production and associated environmental and human health issues. The course will examine questions such as:

* How is our food produced?
* What is sustainability?
* How do we assess the sustainability of our food system?

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):** School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:** Distance Education

**Semester Offering:** Fall 2015

**Class Schedule and Location:** DE

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Kim Bolton

Instructor Email: kbolton@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Summerlee Science Complex 2446.

Office hours by appointment only. Virtual office hours every Monday from 9:30 – 11:30 am in the CourseLink Chat room.

## GTA Information

GTA Name: TBD

GTA Email:

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate methods of food production and outline which methods are more sustainable.
2. Describe critically the broader environmental impacts of individual and societal food choices.
3. Analyze the assumptions and evaluate the worth of evidence used by the popular media.
4. Reflect on your own food choices in the context of eating sustainably.
5. Engage critically and in a scholarly manner, in public arguments about food sustainability issues.

In the process we will address several of the University Learning Outcomes: ULO1 - Critical and Creative Thinking; ULO2 – Literacy; ULO3 - Global Understanding; and ULO4 - Communicating.

### Lecture Content:

This course is divided into nine units. Each unit covers either a one- or a two-week timespan (indicated in brackets).

Unit 01: Food and Agriculture in Canada (1 week)

Unit 02: Essential Ingredients: Requirements for Crop Growth (2 weeks)

Unit 03: Fire Up the Grill: Animal Protein Production (1 week)

Unit 04: Impacts of Conventional Agriculture (2 weeks)

Unit 05: Agricultural Sustainability (2 weeks)

Unit 06: Organic Agriculture (1 week)

Unit 07: Food Waste and Local Food (1 week)

Unit 08: Sustainable Seafood (1 week)

Unit 09: Vegetarianism: Is this the path to sustainability? (1 week)

### Labs:

N/A

### Seminars:

N/A

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit Quizzes (one for each of 9 Units) | Sundays at the end of each Unit (Sept 20, Oct 4, 11 and 25, Nov 8, 15, 22 and 29, Dec 6) | 15% | 1, 2 3 and 5 |
| Omnivore’s Dilemma Online Book Club (Graded Online Discussion) | Sundays (Oct 4, 25, Nov 8, 22, Dec 6) | 10% | 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 |
| Independent Blog Reflections | Tuesdays (Oct 13, 27, Nov 10, 17, 24, Dec 8) | 15% | 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 |
| Food Diary Assignment | Monday October 19 | 10% | 2 and 4 |
| Analysis of a Meal Assignment | Monday November 30 | 20% | 1, 2 and 4 |
| Final Examination | Friday December 11  2:30 to 4:30 PM | 30% | 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 |

Additional Notes (if required):

Your quiz grade (worth 15% of your final grade) will be calculated by dropping your lowest two quiz grades, i.e. your total quiz grade will be calculated from your seven highest quiz grades (so each of your seven highest quiz grades contributes approximately 2% to your final grade).

**Final examination date and time:** Friday December 11, 2:30 to 4:30

### Final exam weighting: 30%

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals (2006), Michael Pollan,Penguin Press

Also available on library reserve.

There are additional required readings that you will find directly on CourseLink in the eReserve section.

### Recommended Texts:

N/A

### Lab Manual:

N/A

### Other Resources:

N/A

### Field Trips:

N/A

### Additional Costs:

N/A

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

Assignments are to be submitted online via Dropbox before midnight (by 11:59pm, EST) on the due date. Assignments handed-in late, for which an extension has not been granted ahead of time, will lose 10% of the total marks for every day (or part thereof) that it is late. If you require an extension on an assignment, you must have a valid reason and contact Dr. Bolton (kbolton@uoguelph.ca) in advance of the due date.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

N/A

### Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

N/A

## University Policies

### Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml).

### Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

### Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website (http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

### Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/) **for more information.**

### Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/).