COURSE DETAIL

MEAT: A CARNIVOROUS HISTORY OF THE WESTERN FOOD SYSTEM
Country France
Host Institution Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)
Program(s) Sciences Po Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History Environmental Studies Agricultural Sciences
UCEAP Course Number 150
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title MEAT: A CARNIVOROUS HISTORY OF THE WESTERN FOOD SYSTEM
UCEAP Transcript Title MEAT: HIST FOOD SYS
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Meat consumption has long been an emotionally charged issue, but contemporary debates over the ethics of eating animals are growing increasingly heated, fueled by the fact that modern livestock agriculture is held responsible for approximately twenty percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. This system's aim has always been to profitably produce an abundance of animal protein and it does so with tremendous efficiency; humans eat so many chickens today that chicken bones are considered one of the primary geological markers of the Anthropocene. Although this plenty provides essential protein for human diets, it also comes at an immense cost to environments, laborers, and the animals themselves and has resulted in the dramatic restructuring of lands, markets, and culinary practice worldwide. This course helps students understand how and why large-scale meat production became a central part of today's global food system. To do so, it combines approaches from environmental, economic, and culinary history and focuses primarily on the agricultural exchanges between Great Britain, Continental Europe, and the United States, both of which had outsized influence in shaping the contours of food production worldwide. The course develops a greater knowledge of the histories of agriculture, food commodity markets, and individual consumption in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DHIS 25A24

Host Institution Course Title
MEAT: A CARNIVOROUS HISTORY OF THE WESTERN FOOD SYSTEM

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202420/269302

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
History

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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