

# **Tentative Schedule for Project Presentations -Economics 4389 - Spring 2015<sup>th</sup>**

March 24 & 26, 2015

## **Group I – Large Brains, Small Gut, High Density Foods, Cooking - Did Cooking Make Us Human?**

This will be a small group project which will show a number of videos interspersed with narrative discussions. Will include material from Blackboard under Did Cooking Make Us Human? & Hunting Made Us Human?

### **Videos**

BBC Horizon [Did Cooking Make Us Human - BBC Horizon?](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOuv4U7u1j0>

[Suzana Herculano-Houzel](#) - What is so special about the human brain?

[http://www.ted.com/talks/suzana\\_herculano\\_houzel\\_what\\_is\\_so\\_special\\_about\\_the\\_human\\_brain?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/suzana_herculano_houzel_what_is_so_special_about_the_human_brain?language=en)

[Waiter, there is a gene in my soup! Jimmy Botella at TEDxUQ](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwzq-swl4cI>

March 30 & April 2, 2015

## **Group II – History of Food and Food Production**

A series of power-points on the history of agriculture and food production including:

1 - Pictures comparing a range of fruits, vegetables and grains *and their wild ancestors*.

2 -Pictorial history of the methods, tools and technology of agriculture and food production in the fields.

3 – Using tables, graphs, charts and pictures provide a history of agricultural yields from plants and animals.

4 – Show the impact of plant breeding by illustrating it showing how humans bred from the plant family Brassica. “Starting in the wild as mustard, it has been bred into cabbages, Brussel sprouts, mustard greens, cauliflower, rapeseed (canola), turnips, rutabaga, collard greens, bok choy, watercress, radish, wasabi and of course, broccoli” – all this from a little mustard seed.

Carry the history of agriculture to more recent times so that it links to other Projects.

April 7 & 9, 2015

## **Group III – Modern Industrial Agriculture and Globalization**

A – Household food preparation before 1870 in U.S. and around the world

B- The “Industrial Kitchen” ( Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat by [Bee Wilson](#))

C- - 20<sup>th</sup> century changes in the home kitchen (Consider the Fork and The Warmest Room in the House: How the Kitchen Became the Heart of the Twentieth-Century American Home by [Steven Gdula](#) )

D - The Industrialization of the other duties for women in the household from making clothing from the basic raw materials, gathering fuel for heating and cooking, obtaining water for cleaning & washing, cooking and drinking to indicate

what consumed a women's entire day. This would a pictorial history of the household tools of production such as the spinning wheel to the many components of textile production in the Industrial revolution. Also includes bring the technology into the household such as the Singer Sewing Machine with interchangeable parts, furnaces and stoves with coal, piped or bottled gas (See for example a recent book by Sean Patrick Adams – Home Fires), piped in clean water washing machines etc.

**1** -1500 -- 1800; - Columbian exchange potatoes feeding livestock (meat, milk, chicken, eggs), –potatoes – sweet potatoes 1492 - present

**2** - 1500 -- 1800; - Columbian exchange – maize (corn), 1492 to present

**3** - 1500 -- 1800; - Columbian exchange –improved seed to yield ratios from breeding & improved cultivation

**4** - 1800 – 1920 (Liebig – minerals. his Law of Minimum etc.; Guano, SuperPhosphate, Darwin, hybridity; Ag research etc.; synthetic fertilizer, pesticides, vitamins)

**5** 1920 – 1960 (**hybridization, mutation breeding, synthetic fertilizer, synthetic pesticides; vitamins, land sparing and reforestation**)

**6** 1960 – Present (Green Revolution; rDNA and other “unnatural” forms of plant breeding, land sparing and reforestation))

**7 - Food Production – present to 2040**

April 14 & 16, 2015

**Group IV – Food Production, Hunger, Malnutrition, Golden Rice & Child Survival**

**Group V - Genetic Modification - transgenic (rDNA), Mutation breeding etc.**

## **Group VI Trends in Global poverty and Hunger since 1950**

1 - Hunger and Malnutrition – overall trend since 1960

2 - Hunger and Malnutrition – current conditions

**April 21, 2015**

## **Group VI – Food Production and the Environment - Water & Climate Issues**

1 Food Security

2 Water distribution irrigation infrastructure

3 *Water & Climate Change*

4 Water and National Security

5 Water Scarcity – Present & Future

## **Group VII – Public Health and the Role of Clean Water and Immunization**

1 Arsenic in the water supply

2 Water in poor countries (waterborne diseases)

3 EPA regulations (local and global water systems)

## **April 23, 2015 Drinking water a History**

1 John Snow to John Leal

2 Waterborne diseases *U.S. – 1900 & today*

**3 - Chlorination of water and putting chemicals in the water supply**

4 Fluoridation

5 - *Fracking & water supply*

**April 28 & 30, 2014**

**PowerPoint course Summary for both courses combined**

April 30, 2014– 3:30 to 3:50 – course evaluation