**Movies about the Global Food System:**

Extra Learning/Extra Credit Opportunities

**Overview:** Here’s a chance for you to deepen your understanding of the human condition while also earning extra credit points. All you have to do is watch a movie listed below (or a similar sort of movie that you get approved from me first), then write a page or so (typed, double-spaced) about what you learned. A good one is worth 10 points, for a semester maximum (along with any other extra credit work) of 30 points.

**Content** should be primarily analytical, not merely your emotional reaction or a plot summary. Your discussion can include any of the following approaches (but don’t feel you have to cover them all).

* Comment on how the movie relates to some issue we’ve discussed in class.
* Discuss how it surprised you or challenged a belief or stereotype you held.
* Analyze the movie as an argument: what statement (if any) did the film seem to be making about the human condition and/or about some contemporary issue(s)? How did the film try to move the audience (e.g. make us care about the plight of street children in Calcutta)? What evidence was given to support a particular claim (e.g. that the climate is changing radically and humans are to blame)? If some of the film’s credibility seems to stem from the writer/filmmaker/famous actor’s own credibility, how does that contribute to (or detract from) the impact?

Note: I encourage you to read what others have said about the movie (the Internet Movie Database is one good site for commentary <http://www.imdb.com/> ), but do NOT include those comments in your own work unless you clearly and properly attribute them. If I see you doing this, you will lose the extra credit privilege for the rest of the semester and any points you may have earned so far. Forgive me for mentioning it, but it has happened a lot recently.

**The List:** Most of these are movies that I’ve seen and liked, but I should warn you that *some* of these are grim, violent, depressing movies—reflecting the grim, violent, depressing world we live in. Some of them have heroes to root for, too, amid the grim stuff. Some are more upbeat, with love stories and happy endings. Read the movie description online and choose carefully, based on what you can take. Most are available on Netflix; many are available in libraries; some I own and will lend. Many have subtitles, but don’t let that discourage you. Many are documentaries, but some are regular feature films, designed to entertain.

Food and Drink—the Big Picture

Food Inc.

The Future of Food

Fast Food Nation

Tapped

Black Gold: Wake up and Smell the Coffee

The Cappuccino Trail

Supersize Me

Harvest of Shame

Under the Same Sky

Al Otro Lado

Cola Wars: Message in a Bottle

Life and Debt

The Garden

Lagaan

Seeds, Hope and Concrete (About urban ag, school gardens; I have a copy to lend)

Food Movies with a more personal focus

Big Night

Woman on Top

Mostly Martha

Eat, Drink, Man, Woman

Babette’s Feast

Vatel

Tortilla Soup

Chocolat

Tampopo

Julie and Julia

Beyond Food: Global Stories

Maria Full of Grace

Traffic (the one with Kevin Kline)

Eastern Promises

Beyond Borders

Girl in the Café

Waste Land

Swades