

“Chicken or beef?” Meat, its human past, present and future

MIT ESP - HSSP
Summer 2021 Syllabus

Program Sector: MIT ESP - HSSP

Class Title: “Chicken or beef?” Meat, its human past, present and future

Instructor Information:

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Date/Time Information:

Class period: Summer 2021 (first half-term)

Class Dates: TBD

Class Time: TBD

Class Location: Zoom!

Seminar Overview

"Chicken or beef?" A familiar question to hear on board a flight. Think about the meals and snacks you're used to eating and how many of them have meat as part of them. It hasn't always been like this, so how did meat become so popular and so available? And can we keep this up into the future? This course will use aspects of archaeology and science to explore this topic in more depth.

Class Schedule

Session (Dates TBD)	Title
Class 1	Introduction & Archaeology of Meat!
Class 2	Modern Agriculture, Meat as part of culture and the Problems of today
Class 3	What's next?

Required materials

All you need to bring with you is a notebook and a pen, as well as whatever device you'll be using to join us on Zoom and access to whatever email address you provided when you signed

up for HSSP. I'll provide any readings or sources you may want electronically, either in our Zoom meetings or via email. **You do not need to buy anything yourself for this course!**

A few rules on conduct

I don't intend to run this like a class in school, but I do ask that a few rules are respected!

1. I'm happy for you to eat snacks or drink water during class - you may have been working for a while and it's important for you to keep your energy levels up! Just make sure you mute yourself so that any munching doesn't disturb the rest of the class!
2. Please dress in whatever makes you feel comfortable!
3. Please don't use your phone during class. This is more for your sake than mine but they do cause distractions. Additionally, you may not bring any recording equipment, neither audio nor visual, to class, and you may not record any Zoom meetings. We're trying to maintain confidentiality and a forum in which people feel comfortable to share ideas. Recordings of any kind may jeopardise that, so please respect this rule.
4. If you need to leave the class early for some reason, that's OK, but I ask that you send a message to the group in the chat to let us know you'll be leaving. That doesn't mean you have to ask to go to the restroom - you're in your own house and can go do that whenever you like! - but if you're leaving class early that day then please let me and the rest of the group know.
5. Also, please let us know if you won't be able to attend a class meeting. Of course, I won't be counting attendances, but I would like to know that you're all caught up!

And just to let you know - when you join each Zoom meeting you'll enter a waiting room before I admit you into the meeting room itself. There's a few reasons this may happen, so just hang tight and I'll let you in soon!

Course Guidelines

This class will be a little different to how you're used to classes working, thanks to Zoom and remote learning!

Communication is key! This is NOT intended to be a lecture class where you sit and listen to me talk for 60 minutes - I want you to join in with group discussions. In our first class we'll spend some time going over the different features in Zoom that will help me make sure discussions run smoothly. Please ask questions!

But! Be prepared for a challenge. We'll be talking about some big opinions throughout the course and I want you to be forming your own and sharing them! Don't be discouraged if someone questions something you've said though - we're trying to encourage discussion!

However, I will not tolerate improper discussion. We're encouraging fair and free debate upon which we debate each other respectfully. Please ensure that if you disagree with someone or want to raise a discussion point, you do so with respect for your classmates. If you are concerned about someone else's behaviour in class, please reach out to me or the HSSP team and we will address it.

Homework! I'm not setting essays and hundreds of pages of readings for my classes, and there is no homework that I'll ask for you to hand in so I can mark. I'll perhaps ask for you to complete reflections before class and (maybe) read short pieces or watch a video or two prior to class. If this is the case, I'll set the work at the end of the class ready for next week's session. I do, however, ask that these tasks are completed.

Participate! This class is small, because I want to host a seminar style class. This only works if you participate in the sessions, so please speak up! And, whilst I want you to be prepared for a challenge, stick to your beliefs and feel confident to hold an opinion. Again: the point in this topic is that it generates lots of opinions. It's OK to think differently!