

International Nutrition: The Political Economy of World Hunger N516

3 hours discussion per week

Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 4:30 – 6

Place: Nursing Education Building 113A

CATALOG DESCRIPTION A detailed consideration of the nature, consequences, and causes of hunger and under-nutrition internationally. Theory will be examined in relation to national and international assessment tools. Approaches are explored to bringing about change, and to formulating and implementing policies and programs at international, national, and local levels, designed to alleviate hunger and under-nutrition.

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Office Hours: to be arranged

PRE-REQUISITES Sophomore-level or higher; at least one background course in nutrition, anthropology, sociology or economics.

COURSE OVERVIEW This course provides an overview of the factors which lead to the persistence of widespread hunger and under-nutrition in the world, and of the range of policies and programs which bear on food and nutrition security. A conceptual framework for looking at course issues and themes is introduced and elaborated. Considering issues in depth is encouraged by each student choosing one country on which to focus during the semester.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To be able analyze the causes and consequences of hunger and undernutrition, to be able to assess different strategies for alleviating these conditions, and to understand the linkages between different levels of structural organization which contribute to the presence of hunger.

CONTRIBUTORY OBJECTIVES

After completing this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify different forms of under-nutrition, and assess their implications for individuals, households, communities, and nations
2. Analyze the interrelationships between hunger/under-nutrition and poverty.
3. Examine issues of food security, nutrition security, and social security in relation to hunger and under-nutrition.
4. Evaluate international, national, and local strategies, and related policies and programs, for alleviating hunger and under-nutrition.
5. Explore the politics of food and nutrition, and the significance of advocacy and public action.
6. Analyze ways in which the social and economic situation of women affects nutrition and health.

CONTENT

1. General conceptual frameworks.
2. World Economics and Hunger: Macro and Micro-economics.
3. Social and Economic Context: Who are Hungry and Undernourished and Why.
4. Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs: International.
5. Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs: National.
6. Hunger and Undernutrition.
7. Food Security, Nutrition Security, Livelihood Security, Social Security, Sustainability.
8. Food and Nutrition Monitoring and Surveillance.
9. Famine and Famine Prevention, and War and Hunger.
10. International Organization in Relation to Food and Nutrition.
11. Organizing for Change: Popular Participation, Literacy, and Education.

TEACHING METHODS

Lectures, discussions, audiovisual aids, and independent learning activities.

MATERIALS:

Some articles are available on Blackboard, other in reserve course packs at the BioMed library. Updates on readings will be published via classlist and also in 'Announcements' in Blackboard. Two books are required and available for purchase at the Penn Book Center (34th and Sansom): Invisible Giant (Brewster Kneen) and Agriculture in the Global Economy (Bread for the World).

EVALUATION METHODS

Country Assignment Paper 20 + page library research paper - OR -	15%
Practical Experience Project	35%
Class Assignments and Presentations	15%
Weekly short reading notes	25%
Class Participation and Discussion	10%

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. They are expected to complete assigned reading for each topic before class and to participate in discussions and class activities. Students are responsible for all material covered during the class. If a student must be absent, it is her/his responsibility to obtain all notes, materials, assignments, and announcements.

Class Schedule

January 13: Introduction to Course Concepts: What is the Nutritional Anthropology approach to international nutrition?
Sen: Why Half the Planet is Hungry

Shiva: The Real Reasons for Hunger

Film: The Global Banquet: Politics of Food

Section I: World Economics and Hunger

January 15: Global Backgrounds and Political Realities I

Kneen: Invisible Giant through Chapter 8

January 20: Global backgrounds and Political Realities II

Kneen: Invisible Giant through Chapter 19

Gershman and Irwin: Getting a Grip on the Global Economy

January 22: Globalization and Women's Poverty

Kingfisher: Chapter 2: Neoliberalism I

Chapter 3: Neoliberalism II

Kim et al.: Sickness Amidst Recovery: Public Debt and Private Suffering....

Film: Bolivian Blues

Section II: International Economics: Farming, Food and Nutrition Issues

January 27: Agriculture and the Global Economy I

Agriculture in the Global Economy Introduction through Chapter 3

January 29: Agriculture and the Global Economy II

Agriculture in the Global Economy through Chapter 6

Film: Reinventing the World: Food

February 3: International Politics and Food Politics

Pelletier: Ecological, Social and Institutional Influences on Nutrition Policy

Nutrition Goals and Targets (SCN Newsletter)

Reutlinger: From 'Food Aid' to 'Aid for Food'" Into the 21st Century

February 5: Biotechnology: GM Crops and Food Security

McCullum et al: Application of Modern Biotechnology to

Food and Agriculture: Food Systems Perspective

Mackey: The Developing World Benefits from Plant Biotechnology

Film: Deconstructing Supper

February 10: **Local/Urban Gardening and Food Security**
Blair et al.: A Dietary, Social and Economic Evaluation of the Philadelphia Urban Gardening Project
Maxwell et al.: Does Urban Agriculture Help Prevent Malnutrition?
Face to Face Farming
Henderson: Rebuilding Local Food Systems from the Grassroots Up

Speaker: Bob Pierson, Founder and President of Farm to City

February 12: **Social and economic situation of women in relation to food and nutrition I:**
Harriss: The Intrafamily Distribution of Hunger in South Asia
Barndt: Picking and Packing for the North

Film: Portrait of Altine in the Dry Season

February 17: **Social and economic situation of women in relation to food and nutrition II**
Scrimshaw and Cosminsky: Impact of Health on Women's Food-Procurement...
Leslie: Improving the Nutrition of Women in the Third World

Film: Murshidat: Female Primary-Health-Care Workers Transforming Society in Yemen

Section III: **Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs: National**

February19: **Defining and measuring hunger, food insecurity, and Undernutrition**

Nestle: Hunger in the United States: Policy Implications
Hungry in America (The Nation)
Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit
ADA Position Paper

February 24: **Hunger and Food Insecurity in America**
Fitchen: Hunger, Malnutrition and Poverty in the Contemporary United States
Food Assistance Landscape September 2003
Food Security 2002

February26: **Hunger and Food Insecurity in Philadelphia**
Lynch and Kaplan: Understanding How Inequality in the Distribution of Income Affects Health
Edin and Lein: Work, Welfare, and Single Mothers' Economic Survival Strategies
Food and Nutrition Resources in Pennsylvania

Film: The Philadelphia Story

Section IV: Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs: International.

March 2: Income, poverty and entitlements

Kracht and Huq: Realizing the right to food and nutrition through public and private action

Haddad and Kracht: What is the relevance of human rights analysis for food and nutrition policy analysis? A roundtable for furthering the dialogue

March 4: Inequality and social stratification

Goldman: Food and Food Poverty

Scheper-Hughes: Sweetness and Death

Film: With These Hands: How Women Feed Africa

March 16: Food security, nutrition security, social security. Monitoring and surveillance, sustainability

Pinstrup-Andersen et al.: World Food Prospects

USDA/ERS Global Food Security 2003

Speaker: Laura Cramer, Program Officer for Counterpart

March 9 and 11: Spring Break!

Section V Hunger and Undernutrition: Who are Hungry and Undernourished and Why

March 18: Malnutrition

Worldwatch Paper 150: Overfed and Underfed: The Global Epidemic of Malnutrition

Film: Lost Generations

March 23: Micronutrient deficiencies in individuals and populations

From SCN News Volume 9:

Addressing Micronutrient Malnutrition

Zinc Deficiency – is it widespread but under-recognized?

The Micronutrient Forum

Film: For a Few Pennies More

March 25: PEM and micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable populations: children and refugees

School-Aged Children: Their Nutrition and Health

Nutrition of Refugees and Displaced Persons

Film: A Fistful of Rice

March 30: **Rapid Assessment Techniques**

April 1: **Short country presentations by students**

Section VII **Famine and Famine Prevention, War, Hunger and Pandemics**

April 6: **Famine**

Dreze and Sen: Famine in Bangladesh

Dreze and Sen: Famines and Social Response

Film: Waiting

April 8: **War**

Cohen and Pinstrip-Anderson: Food Security and Conflict

UN SCN Nutrition in Conflict and Crisis

April 13: **AIDS**

UN SCN Nutrition and AIDS

Treading the path of least resistance: HIV/AIDS and social inequalities—a South African case study

Film: AIDS: a Rural Epidemic (FAO)

Section IX **Organizing for Change**

April 15: **Organizing for change: popular participation, literacy and nutrition education**

Freire: The Importance of the Act of Reading

Browne and Barrett: Female Education in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Key to Development

Moffett and Morgan: Women as Organizers: Building Confidence and Community through Food

Film: Lines in the Dust or Credit Where Credit Is Due

April 20: **Organizing for change: Community Partnerships in Action**

Syme: Social Determinants of Health

McCallum and Pelletier et al.: Use of a Participatory Planning Process as a Way to Build Community Food Security

Rahm: Emergent Learning Opportunities in an Inner-City Youth Gardening Program

Speakers: Jennifer Rulf and Danny Gerber, Directors of UNI

April 22: Class Presentations

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Note: this document will be updated as needed.

Volunteer Project Outline and Guide

For this project each student needs to spend a minimum of 20 hours at the site selected.

The report shall consist of the following three sections, no more than 10 pages total.

1. A brief outline of the origin and goals of the organization, its funding and current participation in relation to Philadelphia (i.e. numbers served in relation to number eligible, etc. or whatever figures the agency and the student-observer think are important)
2. A brief outline of the relevant federal regulations, state and local policies and procedures that define the delivery of the program (or relevant parts of the program) to participants. The question to ask here is "What is the mandate, and who funds it?"
3. Observations and thoughts about the delivery of the program at the site(s) on the days when the student was there.

For the in-class presentation, each student will have precisely 10 minutes to convey the above info to the rest of the class. That means approximately 3.5 to 4 pages of font 12 point pages! Students may use any form they wish to present information, from film and powerpoint to handouts, etc., as long as they do not exceed their allotted time.

Nursing 516 Spring 2004: Possible Philadelphia Hunger Projects

Greensgrow Farm

<http://www.greengrow.org/pages/roots.html>

Additional information available: <http://agmap.psu.edu/Businesses/1158>

Contact Beth (215) 427-2702

Urban Nutrition Initiative

<http://www.urbannutrition.org/>

See the Spring 2004 Schedule in the Assignments section of Blackboard and choose where you would like to volunteer; contact the person listed.

MANNA

<http://www.mannapa.org/>

To volunteer, attend the orientation meeting at 5:30 pm Wednesday 1/28/2004. See website for details and address for other orientation meeting times.

WIC Enrollment Project

Contact Abby Youngblood at ajy@sas.upenn.edu

If you volunteer for this you will be asked to commit for 4 hours per week for the entire semester.

Philabundance

<http://www.philabundance.org/>

Please contact Cassandra Carpenter for further information:

215-339-0900, extension 272 ccarponter@philabundance.org

Greater Philadelphia Food Bank <http://www.greaterphiladelphiafoodbank.org/index.htm>

Volunteer Sign-up form: <http://www.greaterphiladelphiafoodbank.org/volunteer/volunteer.htm>