

International Nutrition: The Political Economy of World Hunger (NURS 316/516)

Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30 – 11:50

Place: Nursing Education Building 113B

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: made by appointment

PREREQUISITES 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.
7. Recognize the primary entities involved in global food and hunger study and intervention.

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

All articles are available on Blackboard. 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): The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan and Closing the Food Gap by Mark Winne.

EVALUATION METHODS

Country Assignment Paper (316: 5 pages; 516: 10 pages) 15%

Practical Experience/ABCS Project (316: 5 pages; 516: 10 pages) 30%

Weekly short reading notes (316: 6 total; 516: 8 total) 45%

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 17: 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 Part 1

Section I: World Economics and Hunger

January 22: Food Economics I

Pollan: Omnivore's Dilemma Section I (Corn)

Film: The Global Banquet: Politics of Food Part 2

January 24: Food Economics II

Pollan: Omnivore's Dilemma Section II (Grass)

Speaker: Danny Gerber

January 29: The Global Economy

Shakov & Irwin - Terms Reconsidered- Decoding Development Discourse

Gershman and Irwin: Getting a Grip on the Global Economy

Odious Lending pages 1-11

From Dawn to Dusk

Removed: Kingfisher: Chapter 2: Neoliberalism I (Blackboard)

Chapter 3: Neoliberalism II (Blackboard)

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

January 31: Agriculture and the Global Economy I

BFTW Hunger Report 2003

Introduction through Chapter 3

Film: Life and Debt Part 1

February 5: Agriculture and the Global Economy II

BFTW Hunger Report 2003: Chapter 4 through Chapter 7

Hart: Political Economy of Food in an Unequal World

Film: Life and Debt Part 2

February 7: International Politics and Food Politics

Pelletier: Ecological, Social and Institutional Influences on Nutrition Policy

Food Aid or Food Sovereignty?

Optional: Nutrition for Improved Development Outcomes: 5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation (SKIM pages 1-24)

February 12: Biotechnology: GM Crops and Food Security

Janet at PASA Conference

McCullum et al: Application of Modern Biotechnology to Food and Agriculture:

Food Systems Perspective

Eicher et al: Crop biotechnology and the African Farmer

BioTech Crops and Foods

ABCS Project Plan and Contract due

Film: Reinventing the World: Food

February 14: Local/Urban Gardening and Food Security

Winne: Chapters Three and Four

Blair et al.: A Dietary, Social and Economic Evaluation of the Philadelphia Urban Gardening Project

Maxwell et al.: Does Urban Agriculture Help Prevent Malnutrition?

Optional: Rosset: Cuba, A Successful Case Study of Sustainable Agriculture

Film: Reinventing the World: Food

Film: The True Cost of Food

February 19: Social and economic situation of women in relation to food and nutrition I:

Rao: Land rights, gender equality and household food security

Barndt: Picking and Packing for the North

February 21: Social and economic situation of women in relation to food and nutrition II

Scrimshaw and Cosminsky: Impact of Health on Women's Food-Procurement Strategies on a Guatemalan Plantation

Mora and Nestel: Improving prenatal nutrition in developing countries: strategies,

prospects, and challenges

Film: Once this Land Was Ours

Section III: Food and Nutrition Policies and Programs: National

February 26: Defining and measuring hunger, food insecurity, and Undernutrition

Nestle: Hunger in America: A Matter of Policy

Winne: Introduction and Chapters One and Two

Food Security 2006

Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit

February 28: Hunger and Food Insecurity in America

Winne: Chapters Five, Six and Seven

Hungry in America (from The Nation)

Food Assistance Landscape March 2006

Optional Reading: BFTW: Hunger 2006; Frontline Issues in Nutrition Assistance

Film: Bodega (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11nsZ3IEWD0>)

Cereal (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxBI6MH-KT8&feature=related>)

Ghetto Big Mac
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO6Bq4lQRZ4&feature=related>)

March 4: Hunger and Food Insecurity in Philadelphia

Lynch: Income inequality and health: expanding the debate

Winne: Chapter Ten

BFTW: Working Harder for Working Families (Hunger Report 2008): Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

Food and Nutrition Resources in Pennsylvania 2006

Film: Wage Slaves: Not Getting By in America (Chapters 1-4: 47 minutes)

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

March 6: Income, poverty and entitlements

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

Adequate Food: A Human Right; read pages 12-25.

March 11 and 13: Spring Break!

March 18: Inequality and social stratification

Goldman: Food and Food Poverty

Walmart and Social Capital

UNU-WIDER: Richest Two Percent Own Half World Wealth

Optional: Down and out in discount America

Scheper-Hughes: Sweetness and Death

Film: Hungry for Help: the Food Crisis in Niger

<http://www.irinnews.org/filmtv.aspx#>

March 20: Livelihood Strategies

Carney: Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches; skim pages 1-48; pay careful attention to the models in Annex 1, 2 and 3 pages 56-66

Gladwin et al.: Addressing Food Security in Africa via Multiple Livelihood Strategies of Women Farmers

Film: With These Hands: How Women Feed Africa

March 25: Food security, nutrition security, social security. Monitoring and surveillance, sustainability

Pinstrup-Andersen and Pandya-Lorch: Meeting Food Needs in the 21st Century

USDA/ERS Global Food Security 2006 (read Overview, pages 1-31)

FAO Food Insecurity 2006 (read pages 4-13, 23-25)

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

March 27: Malnutrition

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

Film: Lost Generations

ABCS Project Progress Report Due

April 1: Micronutrient deficiencies in individuals and populations

Caulfield et al: Stunting, Wasting, and Micronutrient Deficiency Disorders

Levine: Preventing Iodine Deficiency Disease in China

Film: For a Few Pennies More

April 3: PEM and micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable populations: children and refugees

Unicef: State of the Worlds Children 2007 Chapter 1 - 3

Nutrition of Refugees and Displaced Persons

Additional Reading: What Works? A Review of the Efficacy and Effectiveness of Nutrition Interventions

Film: A Fistful of Rice

April 8: Rapid Assessment Techniques

[Rapid Assessment Technique Manual](#) (Section 1 (chapter 1-5) and chapter 10 of Section 2)

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

April 10: Famine

Persistent Hunger Perspectives on Vulnerability, Famine, and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sahel: A Prisoner of Starvation?

Buchanan-Smith: What is a Famine Early Warning System?

Film: The perfect famine

April 15: War

Messer, Cohen and Marchione: Conflict: A Cause and Effect of Hunger

UN SCN Nutrition in Conflict and Crisis (read pages 7-27)

Film: Living with Refugees

Film: Congo's Curse (<http://www.irinnews.org/filmtv.aspx#>)

April 17: AIDS

Paul Farmer: Pathologies of Power, Chapter One (Suffering and Structural Violence)

UN SCN Nutrition and AIDS (read pages 31-44)

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

Film: TBA

Country Papers Due

Section IX Organizing for Change

April 22: 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

Winne: Chapter Nine

UNESCO: Education of Girls and Women

Film: Bangladesh: Microcredit

April 24: Organizing for change: Community Partnerships in Action

Syme: Social Determinants of Health

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

Winne: Chapter Eight and Conclusion

Speaker: Danny Gerber, Director of UNI

April 29: Summary and Discussion

ABCS Project Paper Due

Film: Cultivating Change