



## Getting from Field to Fork

ECON 3010 (4 Credits / 60 class hours)

International Honors Program:  
Rethinking Food Security: People, Agriculture, and Politics

**PLEASE NOTE:** This syllabus is representative of a typical term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

### Course Description

According to the World Bank, nearly 1 in 8 people on the planet today suffer from chronic hunger, and most of this hunger is rooted in poverty and lack of access rather than insufficient production. 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries and rely directly on agriculture for their livelihoods, particularly women. Studies show that growth in the agriculture sector is, on average, at least twice as effective at reducing poverty, and therefore hunger, as growth in other sectors. Meanwhile, as more youth turn their backs on farm labor and move to cities, food systems lag behind. The logistics of getting seed and fertilizer to farms or produce to marketplaces are fraught with barriers. Supply chains have difficulty reaching vulnerable populations and meeting growing demand, both for staple foodstuffs and, as habits evolve, for more protein, fat and sugar. Notwithstanding the scale of chronic hunger, alarming proportions of total food production are wasted.

This comparative course will explore, among other questions:

- What economic development strategies are most effective at increasing food security among the most vulnerable producers and consumers in diverse regions or nations?
- How do international trade and regulatory frameworks affect the production and distribution chains and how can these frameworks contribute to global food security?
- How does income inequality at local, national and international scales affect food security, and therefore nutrition and health, and what strategies can be most effective in reducing food security disparities?
- Which market and land tenure systems help local producers capture more value?
- What role does migration play in local, national and international food production and consumption?
- How does global demand (and supply) in an increasingly global food marketplace impact local development, total waste, energy consumption, and nutrition?
- Where does the majority of every dollar spent on food go along the food chain and how does this vary based on commodity and global market flows?

- How has the concentration of ownership in the food system affected the relative power of farmers, retailers, consumers and planners in shaping the food system?
- How can access to information and digital technology improve the efficiency of both production and distribution systems?
- What new models for organizing supply chains emerge as promising solutions in sustaining livelihoods and ensuring equitable access to healthy food?
- Which financing mechanisms can improve local investment in rural food production, or access for consumers in the mega cities of tomorrow?
- What role can the promotion of traditional foods play in achieving global food security?

## Learning Outcomes

The *Getting from Field to Fork* course comprises 60 class hours of instruction (4 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- *Identify, distinguish between and describe* rural, regional and metropolitan food system supply chains, models, flows and dynamics.
- *Identify, distinguish between and describe* regional, metropolitan, national, and transnational storage, transportation and distribution infrastructure.
- *Distinguish* between and describe the role of major national and international agricultural subsidy regimes in local, national and international food markets.
- *Outline* major international trade agreements and elements of regulation architecture, and describe the role of various actors in defining that architecture.
- *Identify and describe* the major international supply chains related to food production and distribution.
- *Evaluate and discuss* the role of international financial markets on the prices of food staples and in determining local agricultural production patterns.
- *Demonstrate understanding* of the complexity of national and international classification, certification, and marketing regimes.
- *Identify and discuss* market mechanisms and failures affecting rural vs. urban food access and scarcity.
- *Describe* emerging trends in national food sovereignty, alternative models of supply and distribution chains, and next generation international trade regimes.

## Course Schedule

Topics covered in each module will draw on site visits, guest lectures, and other activities, in addition to the assigned readings. The order of the modules may be rearranged to respond to activities or opportunities presented in each Country Program.

### Oakland, CA, USA

Session 1: What are regional and metropolitan food systems?

Session 2: The global food system and California's place in it

## **Tanzania**

Session 3: Infrastructure and logistics to feed the metropolis

Session 4: Labor markets, migration and rural food economies

Session 5: Land tenure and the changing role of sovereign powers in global and local food security

Session 6: Changing distribution chains

Session 7: International trade framework: players in global markets

## **India**

Session 8: National policy framework, land tenure and reform

Session 9: Cash crop economies, micro-finance and communication technology

Session 10: Commodity pricing and value chain analysis

Session 11: International trade policy: agreements, tariffs and disputes

## **Italy**

Session 12: International aid regimes

Session 13: Regulating provenance, methods, safety and quality

Session 14: Pricing waste

Session 15: Accessing clean and fair food equitably

## **Key Topics and Proposed Readings**

### **Food Economy**

Julian M. Alston and Philip G. Pardey, *Agriculture in the Global Economy* (Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 121-146: Winter 2014).

Baines, J., *Food price inflation as redistribution towards a new analysis of corporate power in the world food system* (New Political Economy, 19(1): 79-112: 2014).

Michael Moss, *Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us* (Random House: 2013).

Gustavsson J, Cederberg C, Sonesson U, van Otterdijk R, Meybeck A., *Global Food Losses and Food Waste: Extent, causes and prevention* (Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy: 2011).

Christopher Barrett, *Measuring Food Insecurity* (Science, 327, 825: 2010).

Daly HE, Farley J. *Ecological Economics: Principles and Applications* (Island Press, Washington, DC, pp. 15-35: 2004).

Meadows D, Randers J, Meadows D., *Limits To Growth: The 30-Year Update* (Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, VT: 2004).

Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (Alfred W. Crosby Jr.: 2003).

Tom Reardon, et al, *The Rise of Supermarkets in Africa, Asia, and Latin America* (American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 85, No. 5, Proceedings Issue, Dec. 2003, pp. 1140-1146). Available online at: <http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/courses/intag402/documents/RiseofSupermarketsinAfricaAsiaandLatAm.pdf>

Tsunehiro Otsuki, John Wilson, Mirvat Sewadeh, *Saving two in a billion: A case study to quantify the trade effects of European food safety standards on African Exports* (World Bank, DECRG, 2001). Available online at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTRANETTRADE/Resources/Topics/aflatoxins.pdf>

Bonnano, L et al. (ed), *From Columbus to Conagra: The Globalization of Agriculture and Food* (U. of Kansas Press: 1994). (*Transnational Corporations and the Globalization of the Food System*)

## **Globalization, Food Policy and Food Politics**

Catherine Brinkley, *Avenues into food planning: A review of scholarly food system research* (International Planning Studies, 18(2): 243-266: 2013).

Christopher Rosin, Paul Stock, and Hugh Campbell, *Food systems failure: The global food crisis and the future of agriculture* (Earthscan Press, London: 2012).

David Stuckler, Marion Nestle, *Big food, food systems, and global health* (PLoS Medicine; 9 (6): 2012).

Andersen Pinstруп, Watson DD, *Food Policy for Developing Countries: The Role of Government in Global, National and Local Food Systems* (Cornell University Press: 2011).

OECD, *Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries: At a Glance* (2010). Available online at: [www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/agriculturalpoliciesinoecdcountriesataglance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/agriculturalpoliciesinoecdcountriesataglance.htm)

Zeza, A. and L. Tasciotti. Urban agriculture, poverty, and food security: Empirical evidence from a sample of developing countries. *Food Policy*, 35, 265-273, 2010.

Deininger, K. and D. Byerlee. Rising global interest in farmland: can it yield sustainable and equitable benefits? Washington, DC: World Bank, 2010. Overview, pp. xxv to xlv.

Reardon, T., Barret, C., Berdegue, J. and J. Swinnen. Agrifood industry transformation and small farmers in developing countries. *World Development*, 37(11): 1717-1727. 2009.

Charles, M., Ryan, R., Ryan, N. and Oloruntoba, R. Public policy and biofuels: The way forward? *Energy Policy*, 35, 2007.

Josling T, Sumner DA, Thompson RL, Chambliss M, Laney K. The 2007 U.S. Farm Bill: Implications for Developing Countries. IPC Issue Brief 25. Washington, DC: International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, September 2007.

Hawkes C. Promoting healthy diets and tackling obesity and diet-related chronic diseases: What are the agricultural policy levers? *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 2007;28(2):S312-322.

Morgan, Marsden, Murdoch *Worlds of Food: Place, Power and Provenance in the Food Chain*. 2006.

Maxwell & Slater 2004. Food Policy Old and New. *Development Policy Review*. 21: 531-553.

Friedburg Cleaning up down south: Supermarkets, ethical trade and African horticulture. *Social and Cultural geog* 4 | 2003.

McMichael, P. (2001) The impact of globalization, free trade and technology on food and nutrition in the new millennium. *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* 60: 215-220.

Goodman and Watts 1994 Reconfiguring the rural or fording the divide – capitalist restructuring and the global agrofood system. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 22: 1-49.

Raynolds, Myhre, McMichael, Carro-Figueroa, Buttel (1993) The “new” internationalization of agriculture: A reformulation. *World Development* 21:1101-1121.

Explore: <http://www.foodcircles.missouri.edu/discoverCFS.htm> (Hefferman & Hendrickson Corporate consolidation food chain).

Films in Action: <http://www.filmsforaction.org/search/?s=%22food+deserts%22>

## **Examples of Field Study Sites and Resources**

*The following list includes organizations and sites that may be included in the program. Due to IHP Rethinking Food Security’s interdisciplinary nature, –study sites and guest lecturers will correspond to multiple courses. This list is preliminary and represents many contacts that have been made to help inform the program development. The final schedule of contacts will evolve.*

### **United States**

- Food First Institute for Food and Development Policy, Oakland
- Berkeley Food Policy Institute
- California Certified Organic Farmers, Santa Cruz
- Roots of Change, Oakland

- Oakland Food Policy Council, Oakland
- Chez Panisse Foundation, The Edible Schoolyard Project, Berkeley
- The Trust for Public Land, San Francisco
- Gill Tract Farm Coalition, Gill Tract, Albany
- AG Innovations Network, Sebastopol
- Center for Ecoliteracy, Berkeley
- Berkeley Bowl Market Place, Berkeley
- Ecology Center Farmers' Markets, Berkeley
- People's Grocery, Oakland
- California Fresh Works Fund
- Migration and labor rights organizations

#### Tanzania

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development
- SWIOFish Project
- Tanzania Investment Centre
- Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre
- Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions
- Sugar Board of Tanzania
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Nairobi)
- Tanganyika Farmers Association
- Mwiata Arusha
- Ministry of Livestock - Livestock Training Institute
- Soil Conservation and Agroforestry Project (SCAPA)
- Traditional Irrigation Improvement Project
- Serengeti National Park
- Ngorongoro Conservation Area
- Lake Manyara National Park
- Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot)
- Pelum Tanzania (Morogoro)
- Mwiata Iringa
- Hifadhi Maziringa Project (HIMA)
- Concern Tanzania
- Savings and Credit Cooperative
- Marti-Uyole Ag Center
- Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation Program
- Tanzania Media Women's Association
- Darajani and Forodhani food markets
- Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park

#### India

- International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi
- Center for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmadabad
- Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology
- National Commission on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security of India
- Institute of Rural Management
- Right to Food Campaign
- Junagadh Agricultural University
- Siddi communities
- Gir Forest National Park

- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CGIAR), Patancher

#### Italy

- Committee on World Food Security, United Nations, Rome
- International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, UN, Rome
- World Food Program, United Nations, Rome
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome
- International Fund for Agriculture and Development, United Nations, Rome
- Codex Alimentarius International Food Standards, United Nations, Rome
- Italian Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Rome
- Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity, Bra
- Eataly Alti Cibi, Torino
- University of Gastronomical Sciences, Pollenzo, Torino
- Turin Metropolitan Food Commission
- University of Torino
- Coldiretti, Torino
- Laboratorio Chimico della Camera di Commercio di Torino
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Torino
- Centro Agro Alimentari di Torino, Torino
- Gruppi di Acquisto Solidale, Torino
- Movimento Consumatori, Torino
- Ristorazione Collettiva Sostenibile, Torino
- Cooperativa Agricola Il Frutto Permesso, Bibiana

## Evaluation and Grading Criteria

### Description of Assignments:

Student assessment will be comprehensive and include a variety of individual and group assignments and evaluation methods.

### **Participation**

Participation in the course activities is evaluated based on punctual attendance at all activities; informed participation in all activities, including group discussions, field trips, and lectures; and encouragement and support of group members in their studies and contribution to maintaining a positive learning atmosphere in the group.

### Assessment:

Case-studies	40%
Discussion Papers	30%
Field Reports	20%
Participation	10%

### Grading Scale

94-100%	A	Excellent
90-93%	A-	
87-89%	B+	
84-86%	B	Above Average
80-83%	B-	

77-79%	C+	
74-76%	C	Average
70-73%	C-	
67-69%	D+	
64-66%	D	Below Average
below 64	F	Fail

## Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak....
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

**Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook** for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.