



People, Ethics and Food Security

POLI 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

More people live in urban areas than rural areas for the first time in human history. Cities must be linked to food production and distribution chains that are capable of supplying nutrition to large numbers of people at a consistent and dependable rate. Those chains often depend on small-scale farmers who, as both producers and consumers, represent an economic force at the heart of efforts to create a food-secure world. Yet the integration of smallholder farmers in policy and practice has often been lacking. At the same time, distribution and consumption chains are not always comprehensive or equitable. Inefficiencies, waste, climactic conditions, over consumption, fluctuations in international commodity pricing and energy prices are just a few of many factors that together conspire to compromise the food security of vulnerable urban and rural communities. Simultaneous malnourishment and obesity trends are symptomatic of food systems that are jeopardizing the food security of historically less vulnerable communities in new ways. Climate change, environmental degradation and technological dependency are creating new vulnerabilities just as innovation increases yields. The way families, communities, nations, and international organizations choose to organize land and land rights, production, distribution and consumption systems, and secure the networks of people, resources and activities that link food sources to 7 billion mouths on Earth today, will be central to answering tough questions about a food-secure future.

This comparative course will explore, among other questions:

- How to define food security at local, national and global scales?
- How do conceptions of food security vary and how do varying conceptions determine approaches to food security?
- How can rights to lands and livelihoods in relation to strategies for achieving global food security be balanced with mounting global pressures?
- How are the changing roles of sovereign interests, multi-national corporations and private investors influencing the dynamics of local land ownership, tenure and stewardship?

- How does income distribution and inequality affect hunger, food production and development, and how do systems of agriculture and food distribution, in turn, affect income inequality?
- Which dimensions of local and global food insecurity can be addressed by rethinking distribution systems vs production systems?
- What strategies and actions can governments take at the national level, and communities at the local level, to ensure food accessibility and security for their own populations?
- In what ways do governments regulate what we eat and should governments play a role in personal food choices?
- In what ways does increasing globalization, including the international trade regulatory framework, contribute to food security challenges and solutions?
- What roles do international organizations (aid organizations, NGO's, UN bodies, research institutes, etc) have in helping to develop global solutions?
- What prospects do social movements based on food sovereignty, food justice and food democracy raise in the global quest for food security?
- How can open democratic processes, citizen engagement and public participation in policy making contribute to developing strategies for healthy, fair and clean food?

This course will be run as a multi-disciplinary seminar led collectively by the traveling and local faculty. Cross-disciplinary analysis of the diversity of experiences and issues will help build a rich understanding of the complexity of food security issues in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world.

Learning Outcomes

The People, Ethics and Food Security course comprises 60 class hours of instruction (4 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- *Identify, describe and compare* current and projected global demographic and economic trends;
- *Define and discuss* the global geography of food insecurity;
- *Compare and contrast* international food governance structures and policy frameworks;
- *Discuss* the role of international development, aid and relief organizations in ensuring local and global food security;
- *Define/describe* the following issues/topics:
 - *Food vulnerability, insecurity, and scarcity*
 - *Global food security*
 - *National/local food sovereignty*
 - *Land/water grabbing*
 - *Food movements/social movements*
 - *Global food justice – from famines to food deserts*
 - *Local food justice – quality, access and equity*
 - *Food, water and conflict*
 - *Biotechnology, the next Green Revolution, and the future of food*
 - *Biodiversity, climate change and resilient food systems*
- *Demonstrate* a cross-cultural and cross-geographic framework for the analysis of tough ethical and political questions related to food security;

- *Demonstrate* the ability to communicate the complexity and multi-disciplinary nature of the core issues related to food security.

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, USA

Session I: The right to food and food justice

Session II: Geographies of food equity in the SF Bay

Tanzania

Session III: How Europe underdeveloped Africa

Session IV: Equitable conservation and sustainable livelihoods

Session V: Land rights and the politics of drought and famine

Session VI: Global demand and local rights: sharing the gains and distributing the costs

Session VII: National and international policy: prospects for more food secure regions?

India

Session VII: Peak land, peak oil, peak nutrients: peak food?

Session IX: Gender and food politics

Session X: Food scarcity and environmental stresses as sources of social and political conflict

Session XI: Farmers / Social movements: MST, La Via Campesina, Food Sovereignty

Italy

Session XII: International food security entities and policies

Session XIII: The Common EU Agricultural Policy

Session XIV: Food choices: behavior and diet change?

Session XV: Prospects for local and international food movements

Key Topics and Proposed Core Readings

FAO, The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014. Available online at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4030e.pdf>

Robert Paarlberg, Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Lester Brown, Full Planet, Empty Plates: The New Geopolitics of Food Security (Norton, 2012).

Gordon Conway, One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World (Comstock Publishing Associates: 2012).

Alkon, A and Agyeman, J (eds), Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability (MIT Press: 2011).

Julian Cribb, The Coming Famine: The Global Food Crisis and What We Can Do To Avoid It (University of California Press: 2010).

A Project of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Ingredients of the Food System, (John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: 2010). Available online at: http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/teaching-the-food-system/curriculum/_pdf/Ingredients_of_the_Food_System-Background.pdf

Barry Popkin. The World is Fat: The Fads, Trends, Policies, and Products That Are Fattening the Human Race (Penguin: 2009).

Paul Roberts, The End of Food (Houghton Mifflin: 2008).

Michael Pollan, In Defense of Food (Penguin: 2008).

Michael Pollan, The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals (Penguin: 2007).

Raj Patel, Stuffed and Starved (Melville House Publishing: 2007).

Bill McKibben, Deep Economy (New York Times Books: 2007).

Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé, Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet (Tarcher: 2003).

Food Politics

Leila Demarest, Food Price Rises and Political Instability (CRPD working Paper No. 17, January 2014). Available online at: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/web/files/12/80/wp17.pdf>

Paul and Anne Ehrlich, Can a Collapse of Global Civilization be Avoided? (Royal Society of Publishing: January 9, 2013). Available online at: <http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1754/20122845>

Sbicca, Joshua. Growing Food Justice By Planting an Anti-Oppression Foundation: Opportunities and Obstacles for a Budding Social Movement. (Agriculture and Human Values, Vol 29, Issue 4, pp 455-466: 2012).

Lester Brown, The New Geopolitics of Food (Foreign Policy: April 25, 2011).

Alkon, A and Agyeman, J (eds), Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class and Sustainability (MIT Press: 2011).

J. Bongaarts, Human Population Growth and the Demographic Transition (Royal Society of Publishing: September 21, 2009). Available online at: <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/364/1532/2985>

Charles Godfray, Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion (Science, 327, 812, 2010).

International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, Global Report: Agriculture at a Crossroads (IAASTD: 2009). Available online at: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/est/Investment/Agriculture_at_a_Crossroads_Global_Report_IAASTD.pdf

Andrew Rice, Is There Such a Thing as Agro-Imperialism? (New York Times Magazine: November 16, 2009). Available online at: www.nytimes.com/2009/11/22/magazine/22land-t.html

Allen, Patricia, Mining for Food Justice in the Food System: Perceptions, Practices and Possibilities. (Agriculture and Human Values, Vol 25, p. 157-161: 2008).

Guthman, Julie, Bringing Good Food to Others: Investigating the Subjects of Alternative Food Practice. (Cultural Geographies, Vol 15, pp 431-447: 2008).

Allen, P. and Sachs, C.. Women and Food Chains: The Gendered Politics of Food (International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food 15(1): 1023. Pp 1-16: (2007).

Slocum, Rachel. Anti-Racist Practice and the Work of Community Food Organizations. (Antipode, Vol. 38, Issue 2, pp 327-349: 2006).

James I. Watson and Melissa I. Caldwell (eds.), The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005).

Wekerle, Gerda. Food Justice Movements: Policy, Planning and Networks. (Journal of Planning Education and Research, Vol. 23, pp 378-386: 2004).

Kobayashi, A., & Peake, L. Racism out of place: Thoughts on whiteness and an antiracist geography in the new millennium. (*Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol 90, No 2, pp392-403: 2004).

Oxfam International, *Rigged Rules and Double Standards: Trade, Globalization and the Fight Against Poverty* (Oxfam: 2002).

Marion Nestle, *Food Politics* (University of California Press, 2002).

Vandana Shiva, *Stolen Harvest* (Cambridge, Mass.: South End Press, 2001). (*The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*)

World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development* (Oxford University Press: 1987).

Food Movements

Verena Seufert, Navin Ramankutty & Jonathan A. Foley, Comparing the yields of organic and conventional agriculture (*Nature*, Issue 485, pp. 229–232, 10 May 2012).

USDA, *Local Food Systems: Concepts, Impacts, and Issues* (ERS Report 97, May 2010).

Beuchelt, T., and D. Virchow. 2012. Food sovereignty or the human right to adequate food: Which concept serves better as international development policy for global hunger and poverty reduction? *Agriculture and Human Values*, 29: 259-273, 2012.

McEntee, J. and E. Naumova. Building capacity between the private emergency food system and the local food movement: Working toward food justice and sovereignty in the global North. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 3(1): 235-253, 2012.

Born, B. and Purcell, M. 2006. Avoid the local trap: Scale and food systems in planning research. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 26. Pp 195-205.

Hassanein, N. Food democracy: A pragmatic politics of transformation. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 9: 77-86, 2003.

Donella Meadows, *Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System* (1999)
available online at: www.sustainabilityinstitute.org/pubs/Leverage_Points.pdf

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
- Mwiwata 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)
- Mwiwata 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), Patancheru

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

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

Description of Assignments:

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:

Discussion Papers	20%
Final Written Assignment	50%
Participation	30%

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.