

Syllabus

Understanding and Managing Food Insecurity Kennesaw State University

Instructor Information

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Course Description

Food security management is an integral part of conflict management. International humanitarian assistance organizations like the World Food Program need to address directly the food insecurity consequences of conflict. From a development perspective, agrarian and land reforms can help dismantle the structural fundamentals of many conflicts. Understanding the economics of alternative policy interventions to ameliorate food insecurity is essential for effective social policy programming and peacebuilding.

Prerequisites

The Economics of Food Security is both, an applied micro- and macroeconomics field. The course therefore builds on introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics, which are prerequisites for this course, in addition to calculus.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- use correctly food security relevant terminology.
- apply food security indicators to real-world analytical purposes.
- discuss the main causes and consequences of famines.
- problematize food insecurity from the angles of religion, political history, and economic history.
- develop policy relevant mechanisms to manage food insecurity.
- illustrate the importance of food security to conflict prevention.

Recommended Texts

- Hansen, H. O. (2013). Food Economics: Industry and Markets. Routledge.
- Additional readings are provided in the lecture notes.

Grading and Homework Policy

- 2 in-class Midterms, similar to provided problem sets
 - o Midterm 1: 20%
 - o Midterm 2: 20%
- 5 take-home exercises, due the first session of the subsequent module
 - o Exercise 1: 10%
 - o Exercise 2: 10%
 - o Exercise 3: 10%
 - o Exercise 4: 10%
 - o Exercise 5: 20%

Course Schedule

- 15 Week in-class format
- 2.5 hours per week (2 sessions)

Outline

Module		Allocated Time	Assignment
1	What is Food Insecurity?	5 Sessions	Exercise 1
	- Defining Food Security	1	
	- Four Dimensions of Food Security	1	
	- Two Types of Food Insecurity	1	
	- Hunger, Malnutrition, and Poverty	1	
	- Household Food Security	1	
2	Indicators of Food Insecurity	3 Sessions	Exercise 2
	- Importance of Food Insecurity Indicators	1	
	- Measures of Food Insecurity	1	
	- Helpful Data Sources	1	
3	Lessons from Famines – Causes and Consequences	2 Sessions	Exercise 3
	- Causes of Famines	1	
	- Consequences of Famines	1	
Midterm 1		1 Session	
	Modules 1 to 3	1	
4	Food Insecurity in History	6 Sessions	Exercise 4
	- Food and Religiosity	1	
	- Ancient Greek Experiences – The Problem of Market Power	1	
	- Malthusian Growth Pessimism vs. Ricardian Growth Optimism	1	
	- The Lewis-Fei-Ranis Model and the Importance of the Green Revolution	1	
	- The Giffen Good	1	
	- Engel's Law	1	
5	Managing Food Insecurity	10 Sessions	
	- Why is it important to manage Food Insecurity?	1	
	- How can Food Insecurity be managed?	1	
	- Managing Availability	2	
	- Managing Access	2	
	- Managing utilization	2	
	- Managing Stability	2	
Midterm 2		1 Session	
	Modules 4 to 5	1	
6	The Importance of Food Security to Conflict Prevention	2 Sessions	Exercise 5
	- Hunger and Anger in Autocracies and Democracies	2	