

NS457/ECON474: Economics of Malnutrition and Hunger

Professor David E. Sahn
Spring 2005

Lecture Time & Location:

MWF 9:05 - 9:55
Savage 100

Course description: This course is focused on the analysis of global hunger and malnutrition. We will analyze the dimensions, causes and solutions to hunger and malnutrition, particularly in developing countries.

Grading: The course grade will be based on a mid-term and final exam, a policy brief, as well as class participation.

It is designed primarily for graduate students that are not in the field of economics, as well as undergraduates in economics and related social sciences.

Pre-requisites: Econ 101 and introductory statistics, or permission of the instructor.

For the listed readings:

* =recommended but not required;

=available on electronic reserve from the Cornell Library;

+ =available through the networked resources of the Cornell Library;

URL's have been provided for those items that are available online outside of the library.

Course Website:

<http://instruct1.cit.cornell.edu/Courses/econ474/>

CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Percentages for determination of final grade:

30% for mid-term

30% for paper

40% for final

1. Please note the new meeting place listed above.
2. Office Hours: Friday's from 10:00am to 12:00pm (and by appointment) in 3M12 MVR Hall
3. Due Dates to be aware of:

Mid-Term Examination will be held in class on Wednesday March 16th, you are allowed to bring **one 3x5 card** to the exam with formulas written on it.

Professor Per Pinstrup Anderson will be giving a lecture on Friday March 18th on global food security. Please read the handouts before class.

Policy Paper -- 2 page summary will be due on Monday March 21st

Policy Brief -- Final paper is due on Friday April 15th

Final Exam date to be announced

1. World Food and Nutrition Problems

a. Defining and Quantifying Food insecurity and malnutrition

Von Braun, Joachim. 1999. "Food Security – A Conceptual Basis." In *Food Security and Nutrition*. Edited by Uwe Kracht and Manfred Schulz, New York: St. Martin's Press. Ch. 1, pp. 41-53.

"The state of food insecurity in the world," Food and Agricultural Organization, 2002.
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y7352e/y7352e00.htm>

FAO Food Balance Sheets. Rome, Italy. Various Years and Countries.
<http://apps.fao.org/lim500/nph-wrap.pl?FoodBalanceSheet&Domain=FoodBalanceSheet>

"The fourth report on the world nutrition situation," ACC/SCN of the United Nations, 2000. pp. 5-11. <http://www.unsystem.org/scn/Publications/4RWNS/4rwns.pdf>

Dreze, Jean and Amartya Sen. 1989. *Hunger and Public Action*. Oxford, Clarendon Press. Ch. 3 (Nutrition and Capability), pp 35-45.

Kennedy, G., G. Nantel, and P. Shetty. 2003. The scourge of "hidden hunger": Global dimensions of micronutrient deficiencies. *Food, Nutrition and Agriculture*, No. 32. FAO:
<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/y8346m/y8346m02.htm#Art1y8346m01.htm>

b. Entitlements, Malnutrition and Poverty

Dreze and Sen, *Hunger and Public Action*, Ch 1 (Introduction), pp. 3-19.

World Development Report 2000/2001. *Attacking Poverty*, World Bank: Washington, DC, 2001.
pp. 15-29. <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/wdrpoverty/report/ch1.pdf>

c. Ethics, Hunger and the Food System

#Pinstrup-Andersen, P. 2004. *Three Ethical Problems Facing the World Community*. Located on the course blackboard and website.

#von Braun, J. and Mengistu, T. 2004. *On Ethics and Economics of Changing Behavior in Food and Agricultural Production, Consumption, and Trade -Some Reflections on What to Do*. Located on the course blackboard and website.

2. Food Consumption and Demand: Socio-Economic Determinants

Timmer, C.P., Walter P. Falcon, and Scott R. Pearson. 1983. *Food Policy Analysis*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Chs. 2, pp. 19-76.
<http://cesp.stanford.edu/docs/pubs/falcon/foodpolicy/fronttoc.fm.html>

+ * Sahn, David E. 1988. "The Effect of Price and Income Changes on Food-Energy Intake in Sri Lanka." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 36(2), pp. 315-340.

3. Intrahousehold resource allocation and gender discrimination

Haddad, Lawrence, Christine Peña, Chizuru Nishida, Agnes Quisumbing, and Alison Slack. 1996. "Food Security and Nutrition Implications of Intrahousehold Bias: A Review of the Literature." FCND Discussion Paper No. 19, Washington DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, pp. 2-38 and pp. 51-53.
<http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/dp19.pdf>

Sen, Amartya. "More than 100 Million Women Are Missing." *The New York Review of Books*. New York, Dec 20, 1990.

(MIDTERM)

4. Food and Nutrition Interventions and Policies

World Bank. *Nutrition Toolkit*. Washington, DC: World Bank, Human Development Network.
<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/HDNet/hddocs.nsf/c840b59b6982d2498525670c004def60/44f52d30cb79dcae85256a1f006b868d?OpenDocument>
(Note: Choose "Nutrition Toolkit" from the list of publications).

Foster, Phillips and Howard D. Leathers. 1999. *The World Food Problem*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chs. 18-20, pp. 283-344.
Ch. 18: "Policies Aimed at Lowering the Price of Food through Subsidized

Consumption”

Ch. 19: “Policies that Lower the Prices Paid to Farmers; Impact Subsidies and the Costs of Urban Bias”

Ch. 20: “Policies Aimed at Lowering the Price of Food by Increasing the Supply”

Pinstруп-Andersen, Per, ed. 1988. *Food Subsidies in Developing Countries: Costs, Benefits and Policy Options*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Chs. 1, pp. 1-18.

* Alderman, H. A. 1991. “Food Subsidies and the Poor.” in *Essays on Poverty, Equity and Growth*. Edited by G Psacharopoulos. Oxford: Pergamon Press. Ch. 4, pp. 172-202.

* Smith, Stephen C. 1997. “The Bangladesh Food for Work Program (FFWP).” In *Case Studies in Economic Development*. 2nd Ed. Reading, MA: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc., pp. 81-86

5. Agricultural Production and Food Supplies

a. Biotechnology and Genetically Modified Foods

Pinstруп-Andersen, Per, and Ebbe Schioler. 2000. *Seeds of Contention: world hunger and the global controversy over GM crops*. Johns Hopkins University Press. [on reserve at Mann Library]

b. Agricultural Commercialization, Self-Sufficiency and Globalization

Dreze and Sen, *Hunger and Public Action* Ch. 9 (Production, Entitlements & Nutrition), pp. 165-177.

Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Ch. 9, pp. 204-226.

* Sahn, David E. 1999. “Economic Liberalization and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa.” In *Food Security and Nutrition*. Edited by Uwe Kracht and Manfred Schulz. New York: St. Martin’s Press, Ch. 6, pp. 131-154.

Von Braun, Joachim and Eileen Kennedy. 1994. *Agricultural Commercialization, Economic Development and Nutrition*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1.

c. Macro Food Policies

Timmer et al., Ch. 5, pp. 215-259

<http://cesp.stanford.edu/docs/pubs/falcon/foodpolicy/fronttoc.fm.html>

6. Structural Adjustment and Nutrition

Sahn, David E., Paul Dorosh, and Stephen Younger. 1997. *Structural Adjustment Reconsidered: Economic Policy and Poverty in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 1,2 and 5.

Ch. 1 – Introduction

Ch. 2 – Poverty in Africa

Ch. 5 – Agricultural and Food Markets

7. Human Capital: Impact of Hunger and Malnutrition

a. Health

+ Fogel, Robert W. 1994. "Economic Growth, Population Theory, and Physiology: The Bearing of Long-Term Processes on the Making of Economic Policy." *The American Economic Review*. 84(3), pp. 369-395.

b. Learning and Cognition

+ Nehrman, J. 1996. "The Impact of health and nutrition on education." *World Bank Research Observer* 11 (1), p. 23-37

c. Nutrition, Labor Markets and Productivity

Foster and Leathers, *The World Food Problem*, Ch. 3 (Impacts of Undernutrition), pp. 33-55.

* Ray, *Development Economics*, Chs. 8.4.2. and 13.1-4, pp. 272-279, pp. 500-504.

* Behrman, J. 1993. "The Economic Rationale for Investing in Nutrition in Developing Countries." *World Development* 21(11): pp.1749-71.