

ANTH 342 – World Hunger
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Dr. Carole Counihan
Office Hours: Tu 1:30-3:30
Th 1:30-2:30
Fri 9:30-11:30

WORLD HUNGER

The course is a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary study of world hunger. It involves a critical examination of the political, economic, social, and ecological causes and consequences of hunger and famine. There are few problems of more dire significance in today's world. Through readings and research, students will learn about hunger in different historical and cultural contexts along with different explanations and solutions for it. ANTH 342 is a "Perspectives" course, which means that it is a general education, upper level course for juniors and seniors, both anthropology majors and non-majors. It does not assume previous knowledge of anthropology but focuses on a clear and crucial social problem from a broad interdisciplinary point of view. It is expected that students will train the different knowledge and approaches of their various majors onto the topic of hunger and it is hoped that this diversity will stimulate lively debate and critical thinking.

Course Objectives

- (1) Students will deepen their understanding of the methods and theories of the social sciences, their distinctiveness, and their power to help understand the human condition.
- (2) Students will deepen their understanding of the causes, consequences and solutions of hunger and famine in the US and around the globe.
- (3) Students will improve their research skills by carrying out a major project on hunger.
- (4) Student will improve their writing, oral communication, and critical thinking skills.

Required Books – Bring assigned book(s) to every class!

Counihan, Carole. 2004. Around the Tuscan Table: Food, Family and Gender in Twentieth Century Florence. New York: Routledge.

Magdoff, Fred, et al., eds. 2000. Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food, and the Environment. New York: Monthly Review Books.

Poppendieck, Janet. 1998. Sweet Charity? Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement. New York: Penguin.

Norberg-Hodge, Helena. 2002. Bringing the Food Economy Home: Local Alternatives to Global Agribusiness. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian.

Requirements

1. **Attendance** (20 points). Students lose one point for each class missed.
2. **4-page take-home mid-term essay exam** (40 points) due on Thurs, 2/26.
3. **4-page take-home final essay exam** (40 points) due on Tues, 4/27

4. **Group reading presentation** (5 points). Each student must pair up with one other student and present one of the readings orally to the rest of the class as well as in writing to the professor. Presentations should follow a 3 X 3 X 3 model by citing:

- 3 important facts in the article
- 3 insights from the article (revelations, understandings, questions, contradictions)
- 3 specific references to material in the article

5. **Four reading annotations** (5 points each, 20 points total). You must show evidence of reading and digesting the assigned material by annotating your books or by taking notes. On four specified dates in class students will evaluate each other's book annotations.

Thurs, 1/29	<u>Bringing the Food Economy Home</u>
Tues, 2/10	<u>Hungry for Profit</u>
Tues, 3/2	<u>Sweet Charity</u>
Tues, 3/30	<u>Around the Tuscan Table</u>

6. **Term Paper** (75 points)

Your term paper assignment involves conducting research on either a case study of hunger or on a hunger-fighting organization or project. You will do the research, write an 8-15 page report, and give an oral class presentation on it with a visual component. **STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WORK IN PAIRS ON THEIR PROJECTS.** The case study may be local, national, or global. The organization may be a private, governmental, or non-governmental organization (NGO) located anywhere in the world as long as its primary focus is to reduce hunger. The goal of your research project is to inform yourself and the class about either a case of hunger or about an organization devoted to fighting it. Your project may involve service learning, community based research, and/or library and internet research. Your research methods might involve participant-observation, interview, survey, photography, and scholarly research. Your paper should be 8-15 pages, word-processed, double-spaced, with at least one-inch margins all around. You must prepare the following on the dates indicated:

Tues, 1/27	one paragraph defining your project
Tues, 2/17	2-4 page research design and bibliography
Thurs, 3/18	1-3 page data report
Thurs, 4/8	8-15 page research paper
Tues, 4/13 -27	oral presentation with visual component
Tues, 4/27, 2:45 pm	revised research paper AND first draft with my comments

Option 1: case study of hunger

You should cover at least the following:

1. Description of the hunger/famine: when, where, who (class, race, gender, geography)
2. Extent and duration of hunger and its resolution
3. Major causes and explanations
4. Most important sources of data
5. Most important secondary sources

Examples: hunger today in Lancaster, PA; the Irish potato famine, the Russian Famine of 1931-32, childhood hunger in the US, food scarcity in World War II Italy, etc.

Option 2: hunger-fighting organization or project

You should cover at least the following:

1. Name of the organization, and how, why and when it was founded
2. Goals and target group
3. Philosophy and implicit or explicit explanations for hunger
4. Organizational structure
5. Funding
 - a. Sources (private donations, tax funds, fund raisers)
 - b. How much
 - c. How moneys are acquired
6. Spending
 - a. How much spent to run organization
 - b. How much spent directly helping others
 - c. How funds are disbursed (through grants, standing agreements)
 - d. To whom are funds given (individuals, groups, what sorts)
 - d. To what sorts of projects are funds given
7. Accomplishments of the organization
8. CRITIQUE: would you recommend supporting this organization? Why or why not? What does it do well/badly? Are its goals and philosophy on track? How effective are its programs in accomplishing its goals?

Examples: the Empty Bowls project, the Central PA Food Bank, your church Thanksgiving dinner, the Water St. Rescue Mission, the Crispus Attucks Shelter.

6. **Extra-credit** (10-15 points). Write a letter to the editor of any newspaper about US or world hunger. 10 points for writing and mailing it, 5 more points for getting it published (published copy must be presented).

Summary of Requirements

Attendance	20
Take Home Midterm	40
Take Home Final	40
Group reading presentation	5
Four reading annotations	20
Term Paper Assignment	75
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>200</u>

Grading Scale

A	180-200
B	160-179
C	140-159
D	120-139
F	below 120

Extra-credit 10-15

Syllabus

1/13 Introduction to the course, the topic, the readings, and the requirements

1/15 Reading closely, presenting ideas, annotating books, understanding hunger

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 1 – “From Local to Global”

Hungry for Profit overview

1/20 Food for profit and hunger

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 2 – “The Ecology of Food Marketing”
Hungry for Profit chap 3 – Heffernan, “Concentration of Ownership and Control in Agriculture”

1/22 Industrial vs. sustainable agriculture and hunger

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 3 – “The Ecology of Food Production”
Hungry for Profit chap 4 – Altieri, “... Industrial Agriculture &... Sustainable Farming”

1/27 Agricultural technology, food consumption, health, and hunger

One paragraph defining research project due

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 4 – “Food and Health”
Hungry for Profit – chapter 6 – Middendorf et al., “New Agricultural Biotechnologies”

1/29 Local vs. global agriculture, economies of scale, and hunger

Bringing the Food Economy Home in-class annotation evaluation (5 points)

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 5 – “Food and the Economy”
Hungry for Profit chapter 5 – Lewontin, “The Maturing of Capitalist Agriculture”

2/3 Agriculture, democracy, community, and hunger

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 6 – “Food and Community”
Hungry for Profit chapter 9 – Majka and Majka, “Organizing U.S. Farm Workers”

2/5 Food security and insecurity at home and abroad

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 7 – “Food Security”
Hungry for Profit chapter 7 – McMichael, “Global Food Politics”

2/10 Hunger in America **Hungry for Profit in-class annotation evaluation (5 points)**

READ: Hungry for Profit chapter 11 – Poppendieck, “Want Amid Plenty”
Sweet Charity 1-19

2/12 Emergency food and hunger

READ: Sweet Charity 20-80

2/17 **2-4 page research design and bibliography due**

2/19 Institutionalization of and dependence on emergency food

READ: Sweet Charity 81-140

2/24 Seductions of charity

READ: Sweet Charity 141-200

2/26 Problems with emergency food

4 page take home mid-term exam due

READ: Sweet Charity 201-285

3/2 Constructive solutions to hunger

Sweet Charity in-class annotation evaluation (5 points)

READ: Bringing the Food Economy Home chapter 8 – “Shifting Direction”
Sweet Charity 288-318

3/4 Challenging hunger by changing agriculture

READ: Hungry for Profit chap 12 – Rosset, “Cuba: Successful ... Sustainable Agriculture”
Hungry for Profit chapter 10 – Henderson, “Rebuilding Local Food Systems”

Spring Break

3/16 case study: food and culture in Tuscany

READ: Around the Tuscan Table Chapters 1 & 2

3/18 Studying food and hunger

1-3 page data report due

3/23 Food and hunger in Tuscany before and during World War II

READ: Around the Tuscan Table Chapters 3 & 4

3/25 Gender, food, and family

READ: Around the Tuscan Table Chapters 5 & 6

3/30 Food and social relations

Around the Tuscan Table in-class annotation evaluation (5 points)

READ: Around the Tuscan Table Chapters 7 & 8

4/1 From scarcity to abundance: towards the future

READ: Around the Tuscan Table Chapters 9 & 10

4/6 **8-15 page research paper due**

4/8 *oral presentations*

4/13 *oral presentations*

4/15 *oral presentations*

4/20 *oral presentations*

4/22 *oral presentations*

Revised research paper due ! Hand in first draft with my comments with final draft!

Tuesday, April 27, 2:45-4:45 pm *oral presentations*

4 PAGE TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE