

International Food Policy – Rome
ERS 473/675 –University of Waterloo International Field Course
July 4-15, 2016

Draft outline; some elements and details may change

Course Director: Prof. Jennifer Clapp

Email: Jclapp@uwaterloo.ca

Times and Location: This course will meet at the University of Waterloo Rome campus. Located at the Piazza S. Apollonia, Trastevere, Rome.

Course Description:

This course is a 2-week field course in Rome, Italy, with a focus on International Food Policy and Governance. Located at the Rome Campus of the University of Waterloo (situated in the lively Trastevere neighbourhood in Rome) this course will involve a mix of classroom learning and field site visits to international food agencies based in Rome (e.g. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD, World Food Programme and Bioversity International) as well as a rural field trip to a farming region of Italy. Topics to be covered in the course include: Food security and sustainability as global challenges, international policy frameworks for international food governance such as the UN Committee on World Food Security, as well as policies regarding food aid/assistance, agricultural aid, food security and climate change, international food trade, and rules governing agricultural finance and investment, and agricultural land rights. Through these topics, we will examine the roles of international organizations, state governments, corporations, and individuals in shaping international food policy and governance frameworks to address these important issues.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate: at least 3b and permission of instructor; Graduate: permission of instructor.

Field trip fee: C\$ 700 (covers Rome accommodation)

Deadline for payment of field trip fee: March 15th, 2015

Students are responsible for booking and paying for their own flights, and for expenses related to ground transportation, incidental expenses and food during the field course

*** Students must register and pay tuition to enrol in this course. Graduate students registered for summer term do not need to pay additional tuition to register for this course***

Marks Distribution:

Book Review/Reflection – 25%

Policy Brief – 20%

Policy Brief Presentation – 10%

Participation – 25%

Reflection papers (2) – 20% (10% each)

Book Review/Reflection

You are to write a review of/reflection on the core text for this course: Nora McKeon, *Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations* (Routledge, 2015). The idea of this assignment is for you to read this book ahead of the start of the course, and to provide answers to the following questions:

1. Outline three key pivotal moments that influenced our current global food governance structure today and explain why they were important.
2. Who are the key actors/stakeholders involved in global food governance today?
3. Reflect on 2 to 3 features of a globalized food system that makes international governance of that system particularly challenging.
4. What is the relationship between the concepts of food security and food sovereignty, and how does the answer to this question matter for international food policy?
5. In what ways did the global food price crisis of 2007-08 influence global food governance institutions?
6. What are the prospects for coordinating both bottom-up and top-down food policy initiatives?

In writing your answer to these questions, give the reader a sense of what the author has to say about these questions. While we are in Rome, you are to add to this review by adding your own reflections on these questions based on the information you learned on the field visits to the Rome-based food agencies.

This review/reflection should be approximately 2500-3000 words in length.

Policy Presentation and Brief: Each student will be assigned a policy topic ahead of the start of the course. You can research this topic before July 4 if you wish. Professor Clapp will be in touch with students in the course to determine your policy brief topic. You are to present to the class on a key issue, institution or initiative in global agrifood governance related to what we will be learning in our visits to various governance organizations in Rome. Each student is to present on a different topic, with varying dates for these presentations. You should outline the history and background to the issue, institution or initiative, and the key debates with which it is associated. You will have 15-20 minutes for this presentation. A list of possible policy brief topics will be distributed by May 1st. A sample appears at the end of this draft outline.

Presentation of Policy Brief: you will have 15-20 minutes to present to the class on your topic. You may use powerpoint if you wish. The aim of the presentation is to present an issue of importance to the global food system, and to identify possible policy approaches to address it and their likely impacts.

Policy Brief: you are to write up your presentation topic as policy/analysis brief. This paper should be approximately 1500-1800 words in length (excluding references). Please include references to your key sources, as you would in an academic paper. Your sources should be varied – from academic articles and books, official websites, and NGO websites.

Reflection Papers: you are to write two reflection papers while in Rome, on the topic of your choice based on your insights and connections made during your experiences (visits to international organizations; readings; lectures; rural visit) in this course. These short papers should be 1.5-2 single spaced pages each.

Course Materials:

Required text: Nora McKeon, *Food Security Governance: Empowering Communities, Regulating Corporations*

Additional readings will be posted on a LEARN site.

Policies:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Refer to Academic Integrity website (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for details.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm. **Note for Students with Disabilities:** AccessAbility Services (<http://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/>), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the office at the beginning of each academic term.

Tentative course schedule (just a rough idea of the format. Actual site visit days may change according to availability).

Sunday July 3 – arrive in Rome and get settled in accommodations;
Introductions and orientation activities

Monday July 4 – Introduction to the course. We will meet at the UW Rome campus –
Lecture: Prof Clapp - Key Governance Challenges in the Global Food System: hunger and food security, environmental sustainability, livelihood protection.
Seminar: Discussion of McKeon's book

Tuesday July 5 – FAO as a Coordinating Institution
Lecture: FAO in historical perspective – role and responsibilities
Seminar: Policy Brief Presentations

Wednesday July 6 – Visit to the FAO (trade and markets division; climate change and sustainability; food waste)

Thursday July 7 –Committee on World Food Security
Lecture (AM): Guest lecture by Nora McKeon on the reform of the CFS
Seminars: Policy Brief Presentations
Afternoon: Visit to FAO to CFS Secretariat

Friday July 8 – First reflection paper due
Leave for field trip

Saturday July 9 – Rural farm/slow food tour and other food related activities

Sunday July 10 – return to Rome by evening

Monday July 11 – International Food Assistance
Lecture: Prof. Clapp
Policy Brief Presentations

Tuesday July 12 – Visit to the World Food Programme

Wednesday July 13 – International Biodiversity and Seeds Policy
Lecture: Professor Clapp
Seminar: Policy Brief Presentations

Thursday July 14 – Visit Bioversity International
Second reflection paper due

Friday, July 15 – Financing for Agricultural Development
Morning: Visit International Fund for Agricultural Development
Afternoon: Seminar – Final Reflections and Discussion

Final book review/reflection and Policy Brief – due July 25, 2016, via LEARN or email to Prof. Clapp.

Sample Policy Brief Topics:

1. Climate change/climate smart agriculture
2. Food waste
3. Voluntary Guidelines on land governance
4. Microcredit for smallholders
5. The right to food
6. Agricultural market information system
7. Food assistance – cash, vouchers and food
8. Significance of family farmers
9. State of world hunger
10. Seeds/Plant genetic resources/biodiversity
11. Livestock and environment
12. Globalization and nutrition
13. Water resources and agriculture
14. Sustainable food systems
15. Trade and food security
16. Purchase for Progress (food assistance)
17. Food emergencies
18. Committee on World Food Security
19. World Summit on Food Security/Rome Principles
20. Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals