

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

Course Director: Prof. Jennifer Clapp

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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, 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). 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, 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.

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 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 our globalized food system that make 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. We will also be reading policy reports from agencies we will be visiting as well as other online materials. Please feel free to include references and counter points from the documents we are reading into your review essay.

While we are in Rome, you are to revise 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. Please try to add in references to some of the recommended policy documents and works you read in the preparation of your policy brief as part of your reflection and analysis of the themes covered in the book and in response to the questions above.

First draft of review – please send Prof. Clapp your first draft of your review by June 28, 2016, onto the LEARN site (this first draft can be between 2000-2500 words – the draft will not be marked, but its completion on time will be noted). The final version of this review is due one week after the Rome portion of the course ends, July 25th, to the LEARN site (this final version should be approximately 3000 words, not including references).

Policy Presentation and Brief: Each student will be assigned a policy topic ahead of the start of the course. You are encouraged to begin to research this topic before July 4. 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. Guidance questions are given below for each potential topic. A list of possible policy brief topics appears at the end of this draft outline. Please inform Professor Clapp as soon as possible which policy brief topic you would like to take.

- *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 give an overview of an issue of importance to the global food system, and to identify possible policy approaches to address it and their likely impacts. Feel free to use the guidance questions below for your topic.
- *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. This brief is due via LEARN by July 27th.

Participation: Your participation will be evaluated based on attendance, the quality of classroom interventions, and the quality of the questions you ask at the site visits.

- You are expected to be present and to participate in all class sessions, including site visits.
- Good participation in class is not simply a matter of speaking out. It involves contributions that demonstrate your engagement and connection with the course materials. This might include showing that you are making connections between different parts of the course materials and also between course materials and the work of the agencies we will be visiting, as well as demonstrating that you have carefully weighed the arguments and viewpoints expressed in readings and in class and have incorporated them into your own analysis.
- For each class, you are expected to have read/skimmed at least some of the policy background reports and thought about how they relate to the broader themes of the course, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your classmates in a constructive and respectful manner. Please bring two to three points for discussion drawn from these readings – e.g. things that are new to you, that made sense, or that you think deserve more critical examination.
- Please prepare for each site visit by reading/skimming at least several background documents. You are expected to take your knowledge from this reading, our class discussions, and the textbook by McKeon, together with what you learn in the presentations at each site visit, to ask constructive and informed questions.

Reflection Papers: you are to write 2 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. They are due on the Fridays - July 8 and July 15.

Course Materials:

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

Additional *highly recommended* readings will be posted on a LEARN site. These readings are there for you to familiarize yourself with the work of the agencies we will be visiting, as well as the work of other organizations (NGOs, private sector organizations) that work on similar issues. These additional readings will also be useful in preparing your policy briefs.

Course Schedule:

(The schedule of site visits is now set, but some site visit days/times may change according to availability of the agencies to host us)

Saturday July 2 / Sunday July 3 – arrive in Rome and get settled in accommodations

Monday July 4 – Introduction to the course: Overview of Policy and Governance Challenges

9am - housing orientation: Pantheon Institute - Prof. Clapp will meet students at the Pantheon at 8:45am & everyone will walk over to the UW Rome campus together after the orientation.

10:30am - Lecture: Professor Clapp - Key Governance Challenges in the Global Food System: hunger and food security, environmental sustainability, livelihood protection. Brief introduction to the FAO

1pm - Seminar: Discussion of Nora McKeon's book (discussion based on your first draft of your book reviews)

Additional readings for July 4:

FAO World Summit on Food Security. November 2009. *Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security*.

Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). October 2014. *Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition*.

FAO, IFAD, and WFP. 2015. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World - Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*.

International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES). 2015. *The New Science of Sustainable Food Systems: Overcoming Barriers to Food Systems Reform*.

Wise, Timothy. 2015. "Two Roads Diverged in the food crisis: global policy takes the one more travelled". *Canadian Food Studies* 2 (2): 9-16.

Narula, Smita. 2015. "The Right to Food: Progress and Pitfalls", *Canadian Food Studies*. 2 (2): 41-51.

Tuesday July 5 – FAO Visit (confirmed; 10am-5pm)

8:00 am – meet at residence to travel to FAO together and sign in.

9am – 5pm FAO visit. – schedule to be distributed.

Additional readings for July 5:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2016. *Food and Agriculture: Key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS). 2015. *Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition (GSF) – Fourth Version*.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2015. *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2015-16 - Trade and food security: achieving a better balance between national priorities and the collective good*.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), (Corinna Hawkes). 2015. *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2015-16: In Depth – Nutrition in the trade and food security nexus*.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2014. *Building a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture: Principles and Approaches*.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS). June 2015. *CFS High-Level Forum on connecting Smallholders to Markets*.

Wednesday July 6 – Visit Canadian Embassy

8:30 am – meet at residence to travel to Canadian Embassy

10am – Canadian Embassy; Meet Ambassador Peter McGovern and hear from Ms. Karen Garner, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the U.N. Agencies, about Canada’s activities at the Rome-based food agencies.

Free afternoon

Additional reading for July 6:

Government of Canada. 2013. “Canada leads global food security initiatives”:
<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/acdi-cida.nsf/eng/FRA-52411316-KNL>

Government of Canada. 2009. “Increasing Food Security: Canada’s food security strategy”:
<http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/assets/pdfs/food-security-strategy-e.pdf>

Canadian Council for International Cooperation. 2016. “Canada Needs To Revamp Its Strategy On Global Food Security”:
http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/development-unplugged/global-food-security_b_9116256.html

Margulis, Matias E. 2015. “Canada at the G8 and UN Committee on World Food Security: Forum-Shifting in Global Food Security Governance.” *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* 21 (2): 164–78.

Clapp, Jennifer. 2010. “Responding to the Food Crisis: The Untying of Canadian Food Aid”, in *Canada Among Nations*, edited by P. Heinbecker and F. Hampson, (Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press, 2010), pp.360-367.

Thursday July 7 – Debrief on FAO and Embassy visits; Policy Brief Presentations

9am- Debrief on FAO and Canadian Embassy visits

9:30am – 1pm - Students: Policy Brief presentations and discussion

Free afternoon

Friday July 8 – Bioversity International and Guest Lecture & Discussion with Nora McKeon

8:00 am – meet at residence to travel together to Bioversity International

9:30am-12 noon - Visit Bioversity International

2pm-3pm - Guest Lecture: Nora McKeon (UW Rome campus)

First reflection paper due

Additional Readings for July 8

Ahmed, Faris. 2015. “Peasant agriculture, seeds and biodiversity”, *Canadian Food Studies* 2 (2): 313-320.

Bioversity International. 2014. *Bioversity International Annual Report, 2014*.

Bioversity International and the Centre for Learning on Sustainable Agriculture (ILEIA), (Robin Pistorius). April 2016. *Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources for family farmers: Theory and practice*.

Bioversity International. 2014. *Realizing the promise of neglected and underutilized species*.

McKeon, Nora. 2014. *The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition: A Coup for Corporate Capital?* Transnational Institute.

McKeon, Nora. “Global food governance in an era of crisis: Lessons from the United Nations Committee on World Food Security”, *Canadian Food Studies*, 2 (2): 328-334.

Saturday July 9 / Sunday July 10 – No class time; you are free to explore Rome and beyond

Monday July 11 – International Assistance and Investment for Food and Agriculture

Free morning

1-4pm- Lecture/seminar: Prof. Clapp –Food assistance and agricultural development assistance: teasing out the roles of international institutions, business and financial actors and civil society

Additional Readings for July 11:

FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2015. *Achieving Zero Hunger: the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture*.

Lentz, Erin. 2014. The Future of Food Assistance: Opportunities and Challenges. *Penn State Journal of Law & International Relations*. 3(2): 84-98.

Hallam, David. 2011. "International investment in developing country agriculture—issues and challenges." *Food Security* 3 (1): 91-98.

Vander Stichele, Miriam. 2014. *How Financialisation Influences the Dynamics in the Food Supply Chain*. SOMO: Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations.

ActionAid. 2012. *A Brief Introduction to the Voluntary Guidelines*.

Tuesday July 12 – Visit to the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Free morning

12:30 – meet at residence to travel to IFAD HQ

2:00-5:15pm - IFAD visit

Additional Readings for July 12:

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). June 2014. *Improving nutrition through agriculture*.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). May 2010. *Climate Change: Strategy*.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). September 2013. *Country-level policy engagement: Opportunity and necessity*.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), (Soma Chakrabarti). 2014. *The Gender Advantage: Women on the front line of climate change*.

Wednesday July 13 – Visit to World Food Programme

Free morning

12:30pm – meet at residence to travel together to WFP

2pm-4:30pm – WFP visit

Additional Readings for July 13:

World Food Programme (WFP), (Ugo Gentilini). 2007. *Cash and Food Transfers: A Primer. Occasional Papers No. 18.*

World Food Programme (WFP). February 2015. *P4P Purchase for Progress: The Story – Connecting farmers to markets.*

ODI (Harvey et al.). 2010. *Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts: a review of current thinking.*

Trans-Atlantic Food Assistance Dialogue (TAFAD). July 2012. *The 2012 Food Assistance Convention.*

Thursday July 14 – Debrief on WFP and IFAD visits; Policy brief presentations

9am-9:30am – Debrief on WFP and IFAD visits

9:30- 1pm - Policy Brief presentations and discussion

Free afternoon

Friday, July 15 –International Food Policy in Perspective

9:30am-12 noon - Seminar: Final Reflections and Discussion (students present their reflection papers from both weeks)

Second reflection paper due at 9:30am

Final book review/reflection is July 25, 2016, via LEARN.
Policy Brief is due by July 27, 2016, via LEARN.

Possible Policy Brief Topics:

1. Connecting smallholders to markets initiatives

- What is the significance of recent efforts (through the CFS, FAO and IFAD, etc) to ensure that smallholders, especially those in developing countries, are connected to markets? What are the key features of these initiatives? What are the potential pros and cons of linking farmers into global agrifood value chains?

2. Globalization and nutrition

- What are the nutritional implications of economic globalization (e.g. growing international trade and investment), particularly in developing countries? What sorts of global governance initiatives might best support improved nutrition in an era of economic globalization?

3. Food security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- How is food security in the SDGs addressed differently than it was in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? What aspects of the SDGs are relevant for food security beyond the hunger goal? What are the prospects for the SDGs, in light of lessons from addressing hunger under the MDGs?

4. Agroecology and sustainable agriculture

- What is agroecology and what aspects of it are different from previous approaches to addressing food security, such as the green revolution and GMOs? In what ways might global food security policy and governance incorporate ideas from agroecology to support sustainability in food systems? What are the pros and cons of building agroecological principles into global food policy initiatives?

5. Trade and food security

- What are the key issues and actors driving current debates over trade and its implications for food security? What is the relationship between global trade rules under the WTO and regional trade agreements and global food security governance architecture? What are the most promising initiatives to ensure trade does not harm food security?

6. Emergency food assistance: Cash and vouchers vs commodity assistance

- What are the recent trends in emergency food assistance? What are the pros and cons of commodity food aid vs. the distribution of cash and vouchers in emergency settings? In what ways do the WFP and the Food Assistance Convention take these trends into account?

7. Purchase for Progress (WFP food assistance program)

- What is the WFP Purchase for Progress initiative? Has this initiative met with success in terms of providing local food resources in situations of hunger? What are the biggest challenges facing this program, and how can they be overcome?

8. Reform of the Committee on World Food Security

- What was the impetus for the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, which took place in 2009? Has the reform model been successful in widening the issues on the CFS agenda? Should civil society and private sector actors be given a vote in the CFS?

9. Voluntary Guidelines on land tenure governance

- What was the impetus for the CFS process to adopt voluntary guidelines on the governance of land? What were the key debates during the negotiation of the

guidelines? Have the guidelines been useful in reducing concerns over 'land grabs' in recent years?

10. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

- What is the concept behind 'climate smart agriculture'? What are the main debates over CSA as a response to the challenges to food security presented by climate change? Can CSA provide a useful approach to improving the resilience of agriculture and food systems?

11. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

- What are the main aims and initiatives of GAIN? What have been the main critiques of this alliance? What is the appropriate role for business actors in partnerships to improve global nutrition?

12. Responsible Agricultural Investment Principles

- What is the impetus for developing global guidelines to ensure responsible investment in agriculture? How do the CFS RAI Principles compare to other processes for responsible investment, such as the World Bank sponsored Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment? Are these types of responsible investment guidelines likely to be successful?

13. G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

- What are the main features of the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition? How does this initiative differ from previous efforts to address hunger after the 2007-08 food crisis? What have been the main critiques of the New Alliance, and are those critiques valid?

14. Protection of Plant Genetic Diversity

- Why is the protection of plant genetic diversity so important for the goals of food security and sustainability? What is the role of smallholders in agricultural biodiversity protection? How successful are existing governance initiatives for the protection genetic diversity in the agricultural sector (e.g. international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture)?

15. Progress on the Right to Food

- What is the history of the concept of the Right to Food? How has the Right to Food been incorporated into national and international human rights legal frameworks? How does a Right to Food approach to food security issues inform global food security governance initiatives?

16. Global GAP (Good Agricultural Practices)

- What was the impetus for the establishment of Global GAP standards and what are its main aims? In what ways have the Global GAP standards been critiqued? In what ways can the Global GAP standards be improved?

17. Food Sovereignty

- What are the key guiding principles of food sovereignty? In what ways have the ideas of food sovereignty and its key organizations (Via Campesina, International Planning Committee, etc) influenced global food security governance?

18. Sustainable Intensification

- What is meant by the concept of 'sustainable intensification'? What are the main arguments put forward by both advocates and critics of sustainable intensification? Is some intensification of production necessary to address world food security?

19. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa

- What are the principal aims of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa? What have been some of the critiques of AGRA? Has AGRA been successful in its first 10 years? Why or why not, and what policy recommendations can you offer?

20. Implications of climate change for food security

- In what ways does climate change affect food security, especially for the world's most vulnerable people? Are safety nets such as food assistance programs an appropriate response to climate change vulnerability? What role can risk reduction strategies such as insurance and financing schemes play for those vulnerable to climate change? What are the benefits and costs of such initiatives?

21. Food waste

- How significant is the problem of food waste and why is it important as an area of policy focus? What are the differences in food waste issues in rich countries and in poor countries? What are the most promising policy avenues for addressing food waste, and at what scale are those efforts most likely to be successful?

22. Indigenous knowledge and sustainable food security

- In what ways is indigenous knowledge important for addressing issues of food security and sustainability? How can indigenous knowledge inform international food policies to address hunger and sustainability in the food system? How can international policy protect indigenous contributions to sustainable food security?

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.