COURSE DETAIL

FOOD CRISES: THE BIG PICTURE

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Wageningen University and Research Center

Program(s)
Wageningen University

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Environmental Studies

UCEAP Course Number
119

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
FOOD CRISES: THE BIG PICTURE

UCEAP Transcript Title
FOOD CRISES

UCEAP Quarter Units
5.00

UCEAP Semester Units
3.30

Course Description

This course studies how the nature and impact of food crises have changed over time. Students learn about Preindustrial European famines and their causes, which included natural disasters, exhaustion of existing production capacities, and war. Students then examine common causes of contemporary food crises, which include natural conditions, failing policies to accommodate these natural conditions, and armed conflicts. The combination of these factors occurs disproportionately in developing countries, so this course explores ways in which governments and other national and international institutions can prevent or alleviate food crises. Students study Amartya Sen's Entitlement Theory, and analyze how the theory shifts attention from food production and supply to conditions of poverty, and emphasizes the importance of democratic institutions for preventing famines. This course explores how the gradual depletion of natural resources for farm production and the rise in energy prices has caused fears that global food scarcity might return. Students also discuss how food crises can be expected to develop in the future, and what can be done better to prevent and solve them.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

SDC-51806

Host Institution Course Title

FOOD CRISES: THE BIG PICTURE

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Freedom from Hunger

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Sociology of Development and Change

Course Last Reviewed