Minor Global Food Security 2017-2018
Hier vind je de beschrijvingen van de vakken in de minor. Meer inhoudelijke informatie over de minor vind je op minor.vu.nl.
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Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Security

**Vakcode**
E_MG_AFNS

**Periode**
Periode 1

**Credits**
6.0

**Voertaal**
Engels

**Faculteit**
School of Business and Economics

**Coördinator**
dr. ir. B.G.J.S. Sonneveld

**Examinator**
dr. ir. B.G.J.S. Sonneveld

**Lesmethode(n)**
Hoorcollege, Werkgroep, Computerpracticum

**Niveau**
200

**Doel vak**
After successfully completing this course, students will:
- be familiar with main concepts of agronomy relevant for Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) analysis;
- understand the relation between locational (environmental) factors and the food production system;
- understand the relation between food production systems and FNS;
- be able to analyze these relationships with empirical data, including spatial analysis, and to interpret the results;
- be able to critically reflect and communicate on contemporaneous land use issues.

**Inhoud vak**
- Understanding the interlinkage between locational (environmental) factors and the food production system;
- Understanding the interlinkage between agricultural production systems and food productivity;
- Understanding the position of agriculture in total land use.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures (7 x 2 hours), workgroups (6 x 4 hours).

**Toetsvorm**
Exam (60%), assignments (30%), presentation (10%)

**Aanbevolen voorkennis**
Basics of geography; basics of biology

**Doelgroep**
Bachelor students interested in Food Security

**Overige informatie**
In this course you will learn the basic agronomic principles underlying the interlinkages between food production and agricultural production systems on the one hand, and between agricultural production systems and environmental resources on the other hand. Basic principles of crop and livestock production will be introduced, and you will learn how they are employed across different production systems and how they affect the interaction between production systems and the environment. Given that the nature of these linkages also vary across space and time, the course will have an explicit temporal (dynamic and historical) and spatial focus to understand long term trends and diversity in food production and environmental impacts. Also alternative agricultural production
systems to the dominant systems currently in use will be discussed, such as low input farming systems, including their potential for up-scaling and sustainability. You will also be taught the basics of GIS and how spatially explicit analysis can be utilized to better understand land use patterns and production possibilities and restrictions.

Applications in Food and Nutrition Security Analysis

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Challenges of Food and Nutrition Security

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**Doel vak**

After successfully completing this course, students will:
- have a broad understanding of the concept of Food and Nutrition Security (FNS);
- be able to identify, calculate and interpret basic indicators for FNS and judge their relevance;
- be familiar with and understand the challenges to achieve FNS;
- be familiar with and understand the challenges posed by FNS failure for societies and individuals;
- be familiar with and understand the rationale for possible interventions to improve FNS.

**Inhoud vak**

Food and nutrition security is a critical input for the functioning and wellbeing in any society. At the same time, food and nutrition security remains far from guaranteed with more than 700 million people being undernourished and another billion people suffering from a lack of vitamins and minerals. In this course you will first develop a broad and deep understanding of the concept of FNS, both historically and contemporaneously. Next, the course will analyze challenges to ensure food and nutrition security for all now and in the future as well as...
challenges posed for societies and individuals by food and nutrition insecurity.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures and workgroups

**Toetsvorm**
Exam (60%), assignments (30%), presentation (10%)

**Literatuur**
To be announced

**Vereiste voorkennis**
There is no formal entrance requirement for the minor Global Food Security Studies, and hence also not for this course. We specifically aim for a diverse group as we strongly believe that interdisciplinary research is best taught through active interaction between students from different disciplinary backgrounds. However, we expect that this course is especially of interest to students of economics, social sciences and health sciences. The minor is a university minor which implies that VU students do not need to ask for permission from the Examination Board to acquire the credits for courses for their own BSc degree.

**Doelgroep**
The minor Global Food Security Studies and hence also this course is open for students from all majors who want to acquire familiarity with the core principles of global food security and interdisciplinary methods. We are particularly interested in students who wish to contribute to food security through rigorous interdisciplinary knowledge production. The international staff that teaches in this minor program conducts research in a variety of regions around the globe. This holds great appeal to students who are keen to understand the diversity and similarity in problems and solutions related to food (in)security.

**Intekenprocedure**
To register you should enroll through VUnet. Registration is open from mid-July. Early registration is recommended. Students without access to VUnet should enroll as secondary course students ('bijvakstudent'). More information can be found on this pages:

Dutch information about the application procedure >
English information about the application procedure >

**Overige informatie**
Part of minor Global Food Security

**Economics and Politics for Food and Nutrition Security**

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<td>drs. G.J.M. van den Boom</td>
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Food and Quality of Life

**Doel vak**
- Be familiar with main concepts of nutrition science relevant for FNS analysis
- Understand what a healthy diet is
- Understand the relation between diets and quality of life outcomes: physical, mental and social
- Understand (behavioural/environmental reasons for food choices
- Understand differences in food intake/outcome between social groups
- Be able to collect and analyze data regarding food intake and outcomes
- Be able to critically reflect and communicate on contemporaneous FNS quality of life issues, such as the ‘balanced diet’

**Inhoud vak**
Food and nutrition security are quintessential to quality of life. This course introduces basic health and nutrition science principles to zoom in on the effect of food on individual wellbeing: a balanced diet can contribute to prevent diseases and improve cure rates, improve productivity and nutrition is an important aspect of social relations and wellbeing. The course starts by understanding the composition of nutrition (e.g. what are macro/micro nutrients) and the basic metabolism processes in the body. Thereafter we relate food intake to the concept of a healthy diet and quality nutrition. This student will learn to conduct research into food intake (food frequency questionnaires / 24 hour recalls/food diaries). Thereafter we will relate the food intake to specific health outcomes and conduct basic quantitative analysis into these. The emphasis is on outcomes in relation to health, here we will go into basic measurements such as BMI, stunting, wasting. We will also assess how food intake will contribute to improved educational attainment and labor productivity. Students will further understand how foods, even those that contribute to ill health, may positively affect individuals social life’s and their quality of life. Lastly we will also explore how individuals make decision in relation to food intake.

**Onderwijsvorm**
Lectures, workgroups, practicals, peer review

**Toetsvorm**
Exam (60%), assignments (30%), presentation (10%)
Literatuur
Book chapters, articles, lectures and other literature made available on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis
The minor is designed for students from all disciplines. The interdisciplinary nature of the minor broadens the ‘more disciplinary’ perspective taught to students in the major.

Aanbevolen voorkennis
Preferably students either have followed the first two courses of the minor or have insights into nutrition sciences and basic statistical skills.

Doelgroep
The main target population is all third year VU bachelor students. Students outside the VU will also be targeted, such as at UvA. Because the minor is interdisciplinary, the minor should also be of interest for economics and health sciences students. We specifically aim for a diverse group as we strongly believe that interdisciplinary research is best taught through active interaction between students from different disciplinary backgrounds.

Overige informatie
Food and nutrition security are quintessential to quality of life. This course introduces basic health and nutrition science principles to zoom in on the effect of food on individual wellbeing: a balanced diet can contribute to prevent diseases and improve cure rates, improve productivity and nutrition is an important aspect of social relations and wellbeing.