

Food and Water Security Course Module 0: Getting Started

Course Introduction Video Transcript

Hello everyone and welcome to UBCO's online Food and Water Security During Climate Change Course. My name is Joanne Taylor, and I will be your course instructor for the next four weeks teaching 4 modules with each module taking place within a one-week period for a total of 3 hours of learning per week for a total of 12 hours of learning over the course of one month. Your course Activity Plan will outline the various activities that will be required of you to complete. Before we begin the course, there are several materials that are posted on Canvas that you will be required to read prior to the start of the first class.

The topics that we will be studying over the course of four weeks are beginning in Module One: Food Security, Food Insecurity, and Indigenous Food Sovereignty. Then in Module Two we look at the Hydrological Cycle, Water Security, and local water security in the Okanagan, agricultural Adaptation. In Module Three we investigate Climate Change locally and globally, and climate change and food security during Covid. In the final Module we bring it all together and ask: How can we address Climate Change Adaptation in order to be food secure.

Food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. But Food security means much more than just this simple definition. Food security is also a measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access or purchase it. It is therefore linked to poverty and there is no doubt as statistics indicate that Individuals who are food insecure often live in food deprived circumstances. Food Insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life and refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the household level. Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort. It is a serious problem in Canada that negatively impacts physical, mental, and social health, and costs our healthcare system considerably.

We also discuss Water Security in this course which is defined by the United Nations as the *capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.*” However, we know that populations are experiencing a lack of water not just for urban use, but for development, and more importantly agriculture where the effects of climate change are challenging sustainable water supplies to achieve food security.

The third cornerstone of this course is Climate Change which refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among other effects, that occur over several decades or longer. In the Okanagan we address the topic of drought, flooding, pests, and forest fires. We will also look at Adaptation to Climate change and how food producers are adapting to climactic variations that affect our food supply. Adaptation refers to strategies used by farmers where the use of drought resistant varieties of crops, crop diversification, changes in cropping pattern and calendar of planting, conserving soil moisture through



appropriate tillage methods, improving irrigation efficiency, and various other strategies and systems of approaches which are being either investigated or adopted.

This course will culminate in the final module of asking ourselves “How Do we go forward in addressing food insecurity, water security, climate change, adapting to future climate change and what we can do as individuals, communities, nations and a community of nations?” to secure a sustainable supply of food for generations to come.

We will be using a variety of learning activities such as readings, YouTube Videos and pre-recorded mini lectures. There will also be four group meetings for our discussions on the topic of the week, two of which will be 30-minute discussions. There will also be various on-line class discussions, and reflections that you will post via Canvas email.

I am available any time to take your questions via Canvas email. As well, we can also arrange for a Zoom meeting if you have further questions or require clarification on course related topics.

All course content will take place within the Canvas on-line learning platform and instructions have been posted to guide you through using this online portal.

I hope you enjoy this course as much as I have enjoyed creating it and I look forward to getting to know all of you while discussing this critical and urgent topic.

