



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

School of Economics
and Management

master of science

Economics and Development

International Week, 5th-9th of November 2018

Economic Issues of Malnutrition

Instructors:

Prof. Alfonso Sousa-Poza and Dr. Hamid Reza Oskorouchi, Institute for Health Care & Public Management, University of Hohenheim, Germany

General aim:

The aim of the course is to give students an overview on economic aspects of obesity and under-nutrition. Students will learn how obesity and under-nutrition are measured and what the socioeconomic determinants of each are. Students will also learn how to use empirical techniques to implement and analyze some measures of malnutrition.

Course outline:

This course will take a look at two issues of malnutrition, namely obesity and under-nutrition. Both aspects are of importance, especially in developing countries. Obesity has been rising consistently all over the world and in some countries goes hand-in-hand with under-nutrition (the so-called double burden of malnutrition). This course will be made up of 2 sections, each with 2 parts. In the first section, aspects about the economics of obesity will be discussed, whereas under-nutrition will be the focus of the second section. More specifically, the structure will look as follows:

Part 1: The Economics of Obesity (Alfonso Sousa-Poza)

Lecture 1: Monday 5th, 14-16, D6/014: Measurements, prevalence and costs

- Background
- Prevalence and trend worldwide
- Economic cost of obesity

Lecture 2: Tuesday 6th, 14-16, D6/005: Determinants

- Socioeconomic determinants
- Taking a closer look at peer effects

Part 2: The Economics of Under-Nutrition (Hamid Oskorouchi)

Lecture 3: Thursday 8th, 18-20, D6/102: Measurements, prevalence, causes and consequences

- Background
- Prevalence and worldwide trends
- Causes (focus on children)
- Short and long-term consequences (focus on children)
- Measurements and anthropometrics

Lecture 4: Friday 9th, 10-12, D5/113: Hands-on workshop

Empirical workshop using Young Lives Data (STATA / R)

- Computing Anthropometrics using WHO Anthro
- Application on catch-up growth estimation

Prerequisites:

Although this course is designed for economic students, it could also be of interest to students from other disciplines. As a part of the course will entail a hands-on empirical workshop, students are urged to take along their laptops and have STATA or R installed.