**Assignment 1**

**Defining and Measuring Malnutrition in the World**

* For each student, the assignment involves writing a minimum of two pages, and **maximum of three pages**, excluding references or works cited page.
* The assignment should be typed, 11 or 12 point font, may be single spaced.
* Due Date: By midnight on **Friday, February 14** and must be submitted via Canvas. After Friday midnight, late assignments receive a 5 percent deduction per day. Email submissions or hardcopies are not accepted, as the submission time from the Canvas is the only proof of punctuality.

Motivation: Hunger is a state that is not easy to define precisely. Often the terms, “hunger”, “food insecurity”, “undernutrition” and sometimes, “malnutrition” are used interchangeably. The goal of this assignment is for you to look more closely at these terms and evaluate their definitions and the way they are measured and used to discuss the issues of malnutrition in the world.

For example, The Food and Agriculture Organization’s Index of Undernutrition and the Global Hunger Index (GHI) are two commonly sited indices used to attempt to define the state of undernutrition/hunger.

Sources to aid you:

* Start with the Letters and Foster text book, Chapters 3 and 4.
* See “Useful readings” associated with Assignment 1 on Canvas.
* Do a literature search for additional references on this topic (be sure to cite them).

Guidelines for your written assignment:

* Describe Food and Agriculture Organization’s Index of Undernutrition. Discuss its usefulness and limitations.
* A Global Hunger Index (GHI) has been proposed and reported by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) since 2006. Discuss its usefulness and limitations.
* List 2 additional hunger/food insecurity indices that have been used to measure undernutrition. Briefly discuss the value of each index you list (at most one page).
  + Please note that clinical, biochemical, dietary and anthropometrics are assessments of an individual. They may be used to help determine the state of a person’s malnutrition, or food insecurity, but they are not in themselves considered a “hunger index”.
* After doing this research, summarize your thoughts on hunger indices….