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18 April 2009

Dr. Barbara Piperata
Department of Anthropology
4034 Smith Laboratory
174 W. 18th Avenue
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Piperata:

Thank you for sharing the revised syllabus for the honors course you are proposing, titled "The Global Food Crisis." In addition to taking a look at it myself, I have solicited advice from a pair of colleagues, Fred Hitzhusen and David Kraybill. All three of us agree that a letter of concurrence from this department is in order.

It is clear that the current version of the syllabus reflects feedback that Fred, David, and I provided on an earlier draft. The reading list for the course you are proposing differs substantially from assigned readings in three AEDE courses with similar content: 280 (which is about the global food economy), 532 (which addresses food security), and 597.01 (about food, population, and the environment).

There appears to be modest overlap in some of the lectures listed in the syllabus's course schedule – to be specific, in "How did we get here?" (classes 3-5) and "Food security and hunger" (classes 13-14). However, the perspective you, as an anthropologist, have on these topics undoubtedly differs from an economist's perspective, which Fred, David, and I share. Thus, this overlap is not problematic.

This department therefore supports your proposal for the new honors course.

Sincerely Yours,

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Professor and Undergraduate Program Leader

cc: Fred Hitzhusen David Kraybill