



**Department of Anthropology**

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Dr. Linda Harlow  
Associate Provost  
The Ohio State University

October 12, 2008

Dear Dr. Harlow

It is my great pleasure to recommend Professor Barbara Piperata's proposal for an honors course. Dr. Piperata's course entitled "The Global Food Crisis" focuses on the recent rise in staple food prices and resultant escalation of food insecurity throughout the world. The problem has reached such alarming proportions that the World Health Organization has identified it as its top priority, and much recent media attention has focused on documenting its social, political, economic, and health implications. Dr. Piperata's course therefore deals with a problem that is of current and growing significance.

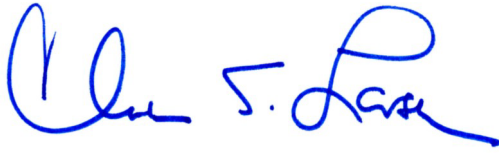
Among our faculty, Dr. Piperata is particularly well-qualified to teach this course and lead students in their analysis of the causes and consequences of this critical global issue. Dr. Piperata's research, which focuses on human energetics (dietary intake and energy expenditure patterns) in the Brazilian Amazon, takes an interdisciplinary approach incorporating concepts from both the social and biological sciences in understanding the human condition. This approach is evident in her work in the Amazon where she has demonstrated that variation in household level demographics and economics, as well as cultural beliefs and practices affect the ability of Amazonian women to maintain positive energy balance during breast-feeding. Dr. Piperata's involvement in IPR (Initiative in Population Research) is further evidence of her commitment to an interdisciplinary approach in addressing complex questions regarding human health and her awareness of its benefits.

Dr. Piperata, in addition to being well-prepared intellectually to take on this multi-faceted problem, is also an excellent teacher. Her strength in teaching is not only apparent from her high SEI scores, but is also reflected in what students say about her courses. In their discursive evaluations, students have commented that Dr. Piperata encourages them to think and critically evaluate ideas and that her courses are intellectually stimulating. Such comments indicate that Dr. Piperata is challenging students to think critically about what they are learning. This is exactly the approach that is needed in an honors course dealing with the complexities of the food crisis.

In short, I highly recommend Dr. Piperata's course to you. I am confident that she will use her knowledge and skills as a teacher and researcher to guide students through this timely

issue of increasing global importance and will challenge honors students to critically analyze the issue from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clark S. Larsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Clark Spencer Larsen  
Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Chair