

Course Name : Poverty, Homelessness and Food Banks in

Taiwan and Around the World

- Class Level : graduate and Undergraduate
- Credit numbers: 3
- Course Number :
- Course Dates :
- Course Time:
- Classroom :
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- Extension : 7744

- Course Description:

Despite the general perception of Taiwan being a relatively wealthy country, there are still many people living in poverty and sleeping rough without homes. In order to help the poor, the Taiwanese social welfare system provides different kinds of aid, from social insurance, allowance and assistance schemes. Local governments also provide help in the form of social services and programs aimed at helping needy families. Food banking is another important tool for assisting those in need with the goals of reducing food waste, and supporting the less fortunate. During the 20th century, food banks have played a significant role in collecting surplus food or materials and delivering it to the needy in western countries. Encouragingly, since 2000, food banks have also been established successfully in many Asian countries, especially in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan.

This course will analyze two issues regarding poverty from comparative perspectives: homelessness and food banking. Beginning with an analysis of the definition of poverty and its issues, a brief overview of Taiwanese social assistance programs is provided, including eligibility, coverage and payment systems. Following this, the living situation of homeless people and the services aiming to help them will be analyzed before proceeding onto a systematic analysis of food banking programs in Taiwan. An important aspect of this course is the use of international comparison alongside theoretical

analysis of the core issues of homelessness and food banking. Students will experience practical hands on instruction that includes visiting programs to NPOs and field studies throughout the course.

Topics for each week :

week 1 : Introduction

week 2 : Poverty: Definition and Theoretical Analysis

week 3 : Social Welfare System in Taiwan

week 4 : Social Assistance System in Taiwan

week 5 : Living situation of Homeless people in Taiwan

week 6 : Staircase model and Housing first approach

week 7 : Homeless policy and Programs

week 8 : Visiting to NPOs aiming to help the homeless people

week 9 : Homelessness in selected western and eastern countries

week 10 : The Development of Food Banks in the western countries

week 11 : The Development of Food Banks in Taiwan and Asia

week 12 : Visiting to Food Banks in Taichung

week 13 : Types of food banks and their operational models

week 14 : Visiting program and field study

week 15 : The criticism of food banking and responses

week 16 : Rethinking of Taiwanese social welfare

week 17 : Report

week 18 : Final exam

Grading :

- Report: 40% (Participants can submit a report about field study observations and/or a policy and its implementation comparison of either food banking or homelessness between Taiwan and at least one foreign nation.)
- Final-examination: 40%
- Attendance and Participate in Discussion : 20%

Reference:

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