School Nutrition and Food Equity in Madison, WI
A 1-credit Undergraduate Global Health Field Course

Leaders: Susan Nelson (Gender and Women’s Studies)
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Dates: March 5 – April 30; Friday mornings from 10 am to 12 pm

Cost: $0 (no additional tuition cost if you are within 12-18 credits)

Course Description: Children need nutritious food to grow and develop, both physically and mentally. As a global health student, you know that food security—access to nutritious, acceptable food—is not a given in the US, including here in Madison. Barriers to good nutrition include physical access to grocery stores, financial access to purchase nutritious foods, and the knowledge and motivation to choose these foods. There are also inequities in access to these resources, particularly among low-income residents of color in Madison, and in Wisconsin. This field course is designed to introduce you to the efforts to improve child nutrition and how these do (and do not) address health inequities, from national school lunch policies to local efforts in Madison, while making the local-to-global connection with these issues around the world.

Course Outcomes:

1. Understand the history of school nutrition policy in the US and the current role of school nutrition in children’s health
2. Become familiar with food systems in Madison, specifically stakeholders in school and community nutrition and examples of current programs
3. Identify health inequities among Madison children according to social and environmental factors, and how cultural differences play out in school settings in Madison
4. Compare and contrast school lunch programs around the world
5. Learn more about local school lunch culture and engage children’s ideas and perceptions through interactions with local elementary school children

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