A 1-credit workshop open to all majors, 1st year through senior year; no previous knowledge or experience required, only a desire to learn about our global world and how each of us can contribute to positive change.

Globally, nearly 1 billion people go to bed hungry each night. Agricultural systems and human communities face growing threats from rising temperatures and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. Meanwhile, the world’s population is projected to add another 2-3 billion people by mid-century, further straining political and ecological systems. In a time of staggering global challenges like these, how can individuals contribute to meaningful and lasting solutions?

In this interactive workshop, students will learn about three global trends—food security, climate change, and population growth—that are key to shaping society, human welfare, and environmental sustainability in the 21st century. Through engaging in interactive exercises, multimedia presentations, and conversations with visiting experts, students will explore and evaluate actions that can contribute to positive change, including individual behavioral changes, educational efforts, policy advocacy, and technology development. Small group discussions will be a central component of each workshop meetings, allowing students to share their ideas and learn from each other’s experiences.

By the end of the workshop, students will have a broad understanding of key sustainable development challenges, an appreciation of the urgency for action, and an understanding of the diverse opportunities to create change. This workshop is suited for and intended to attract students from a variety of disciplines, including social and natural sciences, engineering, and regional studies.

**A Sample Week-by-Week Summary:**

**January 25: Workshop Overview**
- Short films on challenges of climate change, food security, and population growth
- Small group discussion
- Discussion of typology of actions

**February 1: Focus on Population Growth**
- Overview of trends
• Interactive exercise: Food for Thought, which breaks students into different world regions and demonstrates differences in population trends, distribution of resources, wealth, consumption, etc.

• Guest speaker on population solutions: A.Tianna Scozzaro, Sierra Club

February 8: Focus on Food Security
Overview of trends
• Interactive exercise: Oxfam Hunger Banquet, an exercise that highlights global trends in food security and powerfully demonstrates inequities
• Guest speaker on food security solutions: Oxfam America representative

February 15: Focus on Climate Change
• Overview of trends
• Film viewing: Climate Refugees
• Guest speaker on climate solutions: Heidi VanGenderen (US Department of Energy) or Brandon Wu (Action Aid)

February 22: Workshop Conclusion
• Small group presentations on most impactful actions in each thematic area
• Discussion

Assessment: Given the limited nature of this workshop, students will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Assessment will be based on attendance, participation, and quality of final small group presentations.

Tentative readings:
• Latest reports from UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and UN Population Division to provide factual/technical basis on trends
• Articles from The Economist, Washington Post, New York Times and other sources from the past year that provide in-depth review of trends and their policy implications
• News articles and/or reports that provide insights actions/responses of various types

Kathleen Mogelgaard is a writer and analyst on population and the environment, and a consultant for the Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program.

She is principal of KAM Consulting, LLC, specializing in research, analysis, and strategic communications at the intersection of human and environmental well-being. Her work focuses on population dynamics, climate change, food security, and energy access.