2012-2013 Common Context Theme: Hunger

The scandal of people suffering physical hunger is a subject that can be approached from a number of perspectives--economics, politics, biology, etc. In a time when food shelves are more in demand than ever, and people in poor communities find it almost impossible to find or pay for "healthy" foods like fresh fruit and vegetables (thus the seemingly paradoxical connection between poverty and obesity), this seems like an opportune moment for us to explore the theme of hunger in its various dimensions.

In addition, the subject of hunger has served as a focus for much great imaginative literature, and has provided a powerful metaphor through which other human deprivations (spiritual, psychological, imaginative) have been expressed and explored. Yet even in these metaphorical and imaginative projections, the subject or the figure of hunger links back to ethical and moral issues. This theme gives us an opportunity to teach a broad range of texts--Jack Conroy's *The Disinherited*, Agnes Smedley's *Daughter of Earth*, Kafka's "The Hunger Artist," Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, or Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, to name just a few possibilities--while connecting with other disciplines and supporting key elements of the University mission as well as the Common Context's mandate.

Fall 2011 Department Common Context Events

**Thursday, September 22, 2011**
12:00pm, Behind Brady Education Center (BEC)
UST Stewardship Garden Tour
Discover urban gardening at the UST Stewardship garden! UST student gardeners will provide a tour of the garden, discuss urban gardening and food sustainability on campus, and demonstrate how to make salsa from fresh tomatoes.

**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**
7:00pm, JRC 126
Film: *We Feed the World*
Austrian filmmaker Erwin Wagenhofer traces the orgins of the food we eat. An interview with former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, guides us through the film. Co-sponsored by UST Libraries

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011**
7:00pm, JRC 126
Film: *A Screaming Man (Une Homme qui crie)*
Mahamat Saleh Haroun's 2010 Cannes Jury Prize-winning film is set amid the current civil war in Chad. If focuses on the struggles of a sixty-year old former swimming champion, now hotel pool attendance, whose tensions with his adult son intensify when he loses his job to the younger man. Co-sponsored by UST Libraries

**Tuesday, October 25, 2011**
7:00pm, JRC 126
Film: *Our Daily Bread*
To the rhythm of conveyor belts and immense machines, this film looks without commenting into the places where food is produced in Europe: monumental spaces, surreal landscapes and bizarre sounds--a cool, industrial environment which leaves little space for individualism. People, animals, crops, and machines play a supporting role in the logistics of this system which provides our society's standard of living. Directed by Nikolaus Geheyrhalter. This film will be followed by a Q & A with Dr. Kanishka Chowdhury. Co-sponsored by the American Culture and Difference minor program and UST Libraries.
Tuesday, November 1, 2011
12:00pm, OEC Auditorium
**Geography of Hunger in the Twin Cities: Exploring the Food Desert**

Poverty in the United States is associated with both expensive food and high obesity rates. UST geography students have studied this apparent contradiction by mapping the location of food deserts in the Twin Cities. This presentation by Dr. Paul Lorah of the Geography Department focuses on their research and provides new perspectives on the links between poverty and place.

Tuesday, November 8, 2011
12:00pm, OEC Auditorium
**Food Issues Panel Discussion**

UST faculty and students discuss important issues related to food, hunger, and justice in a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Todd Lawrence of the UST English Department.

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
7:00pm, JRC 126
**Film: Hunger**

Steve McQueen's haunting prison drama depicting the last six weeks in the life of Irish Republican hunger striker, Bobby Sands. Co-sponsored by UST Libraries

December 1-December 23, 2011
"Food for Fines" Food Drive with UST Library for *Francis Basket Food Shelf*