Week 3: *What is the Food Problem?*

1. **What is food insecurity about and how does it affect people’s lives? (2 pts.)**

   **Food insecurity:** It’s about chronic hunger/malnutrition, not having enough food to meet one’s daily nutritional requirements.

   **Affects people’s lives (Any one of the following):**
   - Kid don’t learn in school/develop normally
   - Adults don’t have the energy to work hard
   - People are more susceptible to diseases
   - Causes higher mortality rates
   - It slows economic growth/development
   - Makes people more vulnerable to natural/man-made calamities

2. **What are the two causes of food emergencies/hunger and for each cause identify one specific example that illustrates this cause? (2 pts.)**

   **Answer**
   
   **First cause:** social/political-related causes
   **Example:** Any of the following--civil war, civil conflict, displaced persons, high food prices, low income/poverty, HIV/AIDS, economic crisis (e.g., Zimbabwe), economic constraints (e.g., N. Korea), government policies (Zimbabwe, N. Korea)

   **Second cause:** weather-related causes
   **Example:** Any of the following--drought/dry weather, spread of the desert, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, locust/insect infestations, hail/frost

3. **What ruling did the WTO’s appeals panel recently make (about cotton) and what does it require the US to do? (2 pts.)**

   **Answer**
   
   **Ruling:** The US subsidies to cotton producers/exporters are illegal under current trade rules.
   **US must:** End its subsidies (or Brazil will have the right to impose trade sanctions against the US).

4. **What has President Lula done to stamp out hunger in Brazil? (2 pts)**

   **Answer**
   
   President Lula has introduced a “Zero Hunger” program, which provides cash subsidies to poor mothers/women.

5. **Why are some Latin American leaders and some analysts critical of the US’s efforts to produce ethanol to reduce its dependance on foreign petroleum? (2 pts.)**

   **Answer** (any of the following)
   - Using corn to produce ethanol has increased the price of corn (imported from the US), which is a food staple in Latin America.
   - People worry about rich Americans trying to fuel their cars at the expense of hungry people.