

Nutrition 875
Nutrition Policy Seminar (1-2 credits)
Fall 2016
Wednesdays, 2:30-4:25pm
Rosenau Room 241, School of Public Health

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Department of Nutrition

Office hours: By appointment or email

Course Description:

This is a 1-2 credit graduate seminar addressing current public health nutrition policy challenges and controversies including school lunch standards, sugar sweetened beverages, the Farm Bill, federal food programs, the Affordable Care Act, and policies affecting local food systems such as food policy councils, farm to school programs, and good agricultural practices (GAP) certification. The course will cover policy issues at federal, state, and local levels, as well as issues that affect multiple levels of policy.

Teaching Objectives:

Students will:

1. Understand the roles of the executive, legislative and judicial branches in making policy, budget authorization, and legislative reauthorization.
2. Learn about different policy levels: national, state, and local.
3. Become familiar with the major federal agencies responsible for nutrition policy.
4. Become familiar with the major federal food programs (e.g. SNAP, WIC, Child Nutrition) and major nutrition policy documents (e.g. Dietary Guidelines, IOM Reports)
5. Learn about legislation and regulation, political and social environments, challenges, controversies, and current issues in nutrition policy.
6. Make your voice heard on issues related to nutrition policy by writing a letter to a policy maker or commenting on an item in the Federal Register.
7. (2 credit option) Complete an applied policy project related to the North Carolina Health Corner Store Initiative.

Course expectations:*What you can expect from the teaching team:*

- Our best efforts to create a positive learning environment where students feel comfortable expressing their ideas and asking questions
- Informative presentations given by teaching team or guest speakers that relate to the teaching objectives
- Opportunities to engage with the course material through a variety of formats, including in-class discussions, supplemental materials (readings, podcasts), and a project
- Timely feedback on assignments and in response to questions about the course

What we can expect from students:

- Attend and participate in class – ask questions, share ideas, and complete assignments
- Please refrain from using your cell phones in class and surfing the web during class – this is distracting to other students and draws your attention away from course activities
- Communicate with the teaching team if something is hindering your ability to participate in the class or complete assignments. On-going feedback about the course is always welcome. Please let us know if you will have to miss one of the class sessions
- Your participation grade will reflect these expectations

1-credit option:

For the 1-credit option, attendance, participation, and reflections are required. Attendance and participation will be 60% of your grade and written assignments will be 40%.

2-credit option:

For the 2-credit option, attendance/participation (30%), written assignments (20%), and the applied policy project (50%) are required.

Course schedule and materials:

The speaker schedule and reading list is being finalized – check Sakai for updates

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Supplemental materials	Assignments due
8/24	2:30	Course Introduction	Dr. Alice Ammerman		
	3:30	Course Introduction	Dr. Alice Ammerman		
8/31	2:30	Civics 101: How policy “happens” at the local level	Dr. Vaughn Upshaw, UNC School of Government		
	3:30	Federal Nutrition Policy Overview	Jessica Soldavini		
9/7	2:30	Affordable Care Act	Jonathan Oberlander, UNC Social Medicine	Oberlander, 2016	

	3:30	Affordable Care Act	Pam Silberman, UNC Health Policy and Management		
9/14	2:30	NC Healthy Corner Store Initiative	Morgan Wittman Gramann, NC Alliance for Health	HB 250 HB 1030 HB 805	
	3:30	NC Healthy Corner Store Initiative	Melissa Walter, NCDA, MPH RD Nutrition program	Jilcott Pitts, 2013 Part 1 Jilcott Pitts, 2013 Part 2 Minneapolis Healthy Corner Store Program RWJF, 2016 Change Lab Solutions, 2013	
9/21	2:30	Reducing Child Hunger	Lou Ann Crumpler, Tamara Baker, and Helen Roberts, No Kid Hungry NC		Reflection 1
	3:30				
9/28	2:30	GMOs	Melinda Beck, UNC Department of Nutrition		
	3:30	Farm/Agricultural Policy	Rochelle Sparko, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association		
10/5	2:30	School Meals Nutrition Changes and Controversy over Restricting SSBs from SNAP	Marlene Schwartz, Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity	Schwartz, 2015	Email up to 2 photos of your environment to Jessica
	3:30	Overview of USDA Programs	Jerry Mande, USDA		
10/12	2:30	Environments that Promote Physical Activity	Phil Bors, Active Living by Design**		Reflection 2
	3:30	Environments that Promote Physical Activity	Phil Bors, Active Living by Design		

10/19		Fall break			
10/26	2:30				
	3:30				
11/2	2:30	Medicaid Expansion	Betsy Vetter, American Heart Association		
	3:30				
11/9	2:30	Farm to School	Heather Barnes, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services		Reflection 3
	3:30				
11/16	2:30	Food Policy Councils	Jared Cates, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association		
	3:30	Wisconsin CSA rebate	Gini Knight, Center for Environmental Farming Systems		
11/23		Thanksgiving			
11/30	2:30	Municipal Nutrition Policy: New York City	Cathy Nonas, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene		Letter to policy maker or comment on item in Federal Register
	3:30				
12/7	2:30				
	3:30				

Participation:

Class attendance is essential, and we encourage you to participate during classes by asking questions, sharing ideas, and generally being engaged in the presentations. Written assignments described below offer another avenue for sharing your thoughts about the course material.

Assignments:

Written Assignments

Reflections

Please compose a 1-2 page, double-spaced reflection about a topic that has been presented in class. In your reflections, you might consider what you learned from the speaker, outstanding questions you have, whether the presentation confirmed or challenged what you already knew about the topic, or other thoughts you had about the presentation. The reflections are an opportunity to think about and clearly communicate a reaction to a presentation. There is no specific format or topic we are looking for you to address, however we would like for you to avoid submitting a summary that does not include any of your original ideas or reactions. There are a total of 3 reflections due during the semester (due 9/21, 10/12,

11/2). You can select any topics or presentations to be the subject of your reflection. Comparing or synthesizing different presentations in your reflection is an option as well.

Letter to Policy Maker or Comment on Item in Federal Register

The final written assignment is an opportunity for you to make your voice heard on issues related to nutrition policy. You have the option of either writing a letter to a policy maker (local, state or national) or submitting a comment to a regulation from the Federal Register. The topic may be something that was presented in class or another area related to nutrition policy that you are interested in. The letter or comment is due by 11/30.

Resources for Letters to Policy Makers:

- You can locate your representatives here:
<http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>
- Tips for writing a letter to a policy maker can be found here:
<http://www.ucsus.org/action/writing-letters.html#.V82hJpMrLEY>

Resources for Commenting on Items in the Federal Register:

- You can search for regulations with open comment periods and submit your comments at
<https://www.regulations.gov/>
- Information on how to submit a comment can be found here: <https://www.regulations.gov/help>
- For additional information on submitting comments, including tips for submitting effective comments, visit: <https://www.regulations.gov/aboutMediaToolkit>.

**Optional: Photos of Your Environment for Phil Bors Presentation

By Wednesday, October 5, email Jessica (Jessica6@live.unc.edu) up to two photos of your environment that visually captures why it promotes or inhibits your physical activity. The environment can be your neighborhood, school, work, or other places where you spend time. These photos will be incorporated into the presentation given by Phil Bors on October 12.

Applied Policy Project (for 2 credit option)

Students will work as a team to complete an applied policy project related to the North Carolina Healthy Corner Store Initiative. Additional details will be provided.

Submitting assignments:

Upload assignments to your Dropbox folders on Sakai by 11:59pm on the day they are due. If you have any technical difficulties, please email assignments to Jessica (Jessica6@live.unc.edu).

Grading:

1-Credit Option

1. Attendance / Participation (60%)
2. Written Assignments (40%)

2-Credit Option

1. Attendance / Participation (30%)
2. Written Assignments (20%)
3. Applied Policy Project (50%)

***Note: Attendance is mandatory. More than 2 absences may affect your participation grade.*

Grading Scale:

H	90-100
P	80-89
L	70-79
F	<70

