

COURSE NAME: Food, Nutrition and Health Policy

COURSE NUMBER: 11:373:371

SEMESTER: Fall 2019

MEETING DAYS, TIMES, AND PLACE: T, F 10:55AM – 12:15PM, HCK 210

PREREQUISITE: 11:373:121 or 01:220:102

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor(s): Prof. Yanhong Jin

Office Location: Cook Office Building, Room 115

Phone: 848-932-9139

Email: yanhong.jin@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:30AM – 10:30AM or by appointment

COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

There is no required textbook for this course. Lecture notes and the supplementary readings will be made available through the SAKAI course web site. The supplementary readings develop some topics/themes addressed in class and often bring in additional information that can be helpful in understanding the issues.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores economic and policy aspects of the U.S. agriculture and food supply chain with a focus on food safety, nutrition, and health. The objectives are twofold: (a) to help students better understand the U.S. agriculture and food supply chain under both the domestic and international contexts; and (b) to guide students to apply economic concepts and methods to analyze food related issues by utilizing both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

LEARNING GOALS:

1. Describe the principal areas of agriculture, food, nutrition, and health in the United States and their interlinkages among these areas.
2. Understand the US food supply chain under both domestic and international contexts.
3. Identify social, cultural, economic, institutional, policy and environmental factors that either improve or adversely affect food supply chain (security, safety and quality), dietary intakes and nutritional status, and health conditions of the population in the United States.
4. Understand how relevant education and interventional programs and policies affect food safety, dietary intake and nutritional conditions, and health status, including, but not limited to food and nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs.
5. Identify government agencies primarily responsible for each area of food, nutrition and health policy and understand their roles and missions as well as the relevant major programs for each government agency.
6. Identify and apply economic concepts and analytical methods to investigate key issues in food, nutrition and health related areas.
7. Improved analytical skills and critical thinking as an “economist.”
8. Improved healthy lifestyle by maintaining healthy eating and staying physically active.

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES, GRADING & ASSESSMENT:

Students' course score will be calculated based on class participation (5 points); class discussion of new articles on food, nutrition and health (5 points); class quizzes (10 points); term projects (20 points); midterm (30 points), and final exam (30 points). Students are given the opportunity to earn up to 4 points at discretion of the instructor. The assignment for extra credits will be announced in the class. The course grade is given as follows: A (≥ 90 points); B+ (85 up but less than 90 points); B (80 up but less than 85 points); C+ (75 up but less than 80 points); C (70 up but less than 75 points); D (60 up but less than 70 points), and F (less than 60 points). Please do not inquire the course grade via E-mail. It is the university policy that under no circumstances instructors are permitted to transmit grades via E-mail.

- **Class Attendance and Participation (5 points):** Because the course content will be presented during the scheduled classes and there is no required textbook, class attendance will be necessary for successful completion of the course. Students are required to attend all class sessions. Students who miss class are responsible for finding out what were discussed, whether any material was handed out, or if there were any announcements of schedule changes.
- **Class discussion of news articles on food, nutrition and health (5 points):** To fulfill the course goal -- guiding students to apply economic concepts and methods to analyze food related issues by utilizing both qualitative and quantitative approaches – each student is required to lead at least one class discussion of a new articles of his/her choice after consulting the instructor.
- **In-class Quizzes (10 points):** Students are required to take short quizzes in class. The lecture notes and required readings are the study materials for each quiz.
- **Midterm Exam (30 points) and Final Exam (30 points):** A midterm will be given after we finish the food safety part. A final exam is scheduled by the university at 8-11am on December 21st. However, the instructor scheduled the final exam in the last day of the class at **10:55am-12:15pm on December 10th**. No make-up exam will be given for both midterm and final exams. Students who miss the exam and are unable to provide a valid excuse will receive a zero point for the exam. Special arrangement can be made for students who miss the exam and can provide a valid written excuse prior to the exam.
- **Term Project (20 points):** A term project at the choice of food safety, health, nutrition, or other food related issue is required. The term project gives students an opportunity to apply economic concepts, analytical skills, and qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze food related issues.
 - Students can choose any topic relating to the course for their team project. The instructor will discuss some topics for the term project in each of the course module. Students are greatly encouraged to find questions/issues relating to food that are interesting to them as well as the rest of the class. They are also encouraged to discuss their term project topic in the discussion section of the SAKAI course website.
 - The overall evaluation of each team term project is based on the in-class presentation and final written report. The individual evaluation is based on the overall evaluation of their team project, peer evaluations from others in the team, and individual journal entries. Below are more details of the requirement and evaluations.
 - Each team consists of up to **four** students. Each student earn his/her term project point based on the overall team performance, individual contribution to the team project, and individual journal entries.
 - Each team is required to meet with the instructor at least twice, including the first meeting when the team is trying to decide on the project topic and the second one to report the project progress.
 - Each team member needs to have three journal entries. They are due in class on the following dates:

November 1st, November 15th, and December 29th. Journal entries will help team members to document resources and materials you have studied and facilitate the discussion within the team and the meeting with the instructor. A missing or late submission of the journal entry results in a point reduction of the term project for the individual team member.

- Written Report needs have a cover page indicating the title and authors of the project. The length of the written report is up to 15 pages (excluding the title page, tables, and figures). The report is double spaced, 12 font size throughout. Each table and figure should be included in the main text. Although the structure of the written report may vary depending on the chosen topic and personal written styles, the following sections, namely, introduction, literature review, analyses, conclusions and references, should be included in the written report. All the cited materials should be included in the reference list. The instructor will not grade the written report if the report is more than 15 pages; or it does not meet the requirements mentioned above; or it does not have a list of references.
- The final project, including the written report (hard copy) and the presentation slides (hard copy) are due at the class on **December 6th**. The electronic version of the presentation slides need to be submitted by **5pm on December 5th**. No late submission is acceptable.
- All team members should assess the efforts and contribution from each member. A sheet indicating each member's contribution is required to be turned in. All the team members have to sign on the sheet to make it valid. Prof. Jin will not grade the project if the contribution sheet is not provided to her. The example of the contribution sheet is given below:

Table 1: Team Member Contribution Sheet

Project Title: The Effect of the US Mad Cow Discoveries on US Meat Consumption			
Team Member	Contribution	Signature	Date
Joshua	40%		
Julia	40%		
James	20%		

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING AND GOOD GRADES

The first and most important tip is to attend each class session, study the course materials, prepare for the in-class quizzes and exams, and make efforts on the term project. Beside the contribution to your final grade, your participation in class and performance in quizzes are the signals for both yourself and Prof. Jin to tell how well you do in the class. Such early signals are important for timely help. Second, please speak up in or after the class regarding any issues in teaching and learning during the semester. If you do not understand, please feel free to speak up in class. The likelihood that other students are also confused is almost one. You are also welcome to communicate with Prof. Jin of your concerns and progress via other channels such as office visits and E-mails.

Email: Please do not enquire your grade via email. It is the university policy that under no circumstances instructors are permitted to transmit grade via email. All your midterm grades will be made available in the class and the final course grade will be posted on the Rutgers web site within 48 hours after the final exam.

CONTACTING PROF. JIN

Prof. Jin has office hours at 9:30-10:30am on Tuesday. You can also make appointment with her. There are good reasons you shall make a good use of her office hours: (a) to clarify the materials covered in class; (b) to get

help if you have questions or difficulties to understand the course materials; (c) to raise comments and/or concerns related to teaching and learning; (d) to discuss with her about your current and/or future study, career choices, etc. The simple rule is that you are the top priority during the designated office hours and please use them effectively to let Prof. Jin help you. Besides the office hours, Prof. Jin also makes herself available via E-mails and by appointments. SAKAI serves an important role – please check the course web site frequently.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

ABSENCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This course tentatively consists of the following four parts. However, the instructor reserves the right of changing course materials and schedules if it is necessary to facilitate learning. Such changes will be discussed in class before they are implemented.

1. **Overview of the U.S. agriculture and food supply chain** provides
 - a) An overview of the U.S. agriculture and food supply chain with a focus on economic and policy aspects to understand their importance and relevance to the national and world economy;
 - b) An overview of governance structures and branches enforcing food safety, nutritional, and health requirements; and
 - c) Discussions of rationales and impacts of government policies on food safety, nutrition, and health.
2. **Food safety Section** provides
 - a) Discussions of unintentional and deliberated food safety events;
 - b) An overview and impact analyses of policy instruments used to enforce and improve food safety; and
 - c) Case studies on market responses and policy evaluation of food safety events.
3. **Nutrition and health Section** addresses
 - a) Linkages between consumptions of safe, nutritional, and healthy food and health conditions/statuses of Americans;
 - b) Policy instruments aiming to improve nutritional and health requirements of food; and
 - c) Case studies on nutrition and health of food.
4. **Other food related issues** include, but not limited to, food marketing, international trade and policy, globalization and food system.

FINAL EXAM/PAPER DATE AND TIME

Online Final exam Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.