



NUTR 514 – 01W

Public Health Nutrition

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Katharine Halfacre, PhD
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: N/A
University Email Address: Katharine.Halfacre@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts

1. Boyle, M.A. (2022). *Community nutrition in action* (8th ed.). Cengage. Access at <https://www.cengage.com/c/community-nutrition-in-action-8e-boyle/9780357367957/>
2. Edelstein, S. (2023). *Community nutrition and public health nutrition* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning. Access at <https://www.jblearning.com/catalog/productdetails/9781284234237#productInfo>

Other materials and supplementary readings will be provided in the LMS.

Course Description

This course offers a broad introduction to food policies in the United States. Food policy encompasses laws, regulations, decisions and actions by governments and

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other institutions that influence food production, distribution and consumption. Real-world controversies and debates motivate the course's attention to economic principles, research tools, policy analysis, and contemporary data sources.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Define the theory and practice of public health nutrition.
2. Outline the history and development of nutritional science, dietary intake guidance, and food/nutrition services in the US.
3. Describe methods for evaluating community nutrition status and identify current community nutrition problems.
4. Characterize populations at the greatest risk for malnutrition and nutrition related disease, including principal biological, cultural, socioeconomic, and nutritional determinants of diet-related disease risks.
5. Identify methodologies for nutrition intervention from an individual, community, program and policy level including similarities and differences.
6. Identify educational resources and public nutrition services available in the US, identifying which programs target food insecurity, hunger, nutritional deficiencies, over nutrition and diet-related chronic disease.
7. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of current nutrition services and resources.
8. Develop program proposal for the delivery of nutrition education messages.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Ability to utilize D2L, word processing, presentation, and database software; ability to utilize university email

Instructional Methods

This course leverages engaging lectures, readings, discussions, and projects to build a strong understanding of the fundamental executive functions of nutrition professionals in the field of public health.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

This graduate-level course will require students to be highly disciplined, motivated, and professional. Attendance, attentiveness, and quality of work should reflect that students are in professional preparation. Plan to dedicate about nine hours of effort each week to succeed in this course. This time will be committed to reading the course text, reviewing lecture materials, and completing assignments. Be focused, prepared, and hardworking.

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GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 450- 500 Points

B = 400- 449 Points

C = 350- 399 Points

D = 300- 349 Points

F = Less than 300 Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Grade Item	Point Value	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes (4)	50 points each	10% x 4 = 40%
Discussions (4)	25 points each	5% x 4 = 20%
Legislative Advocacy Pitch	50 points	10%
Nutrition Program	75 points	15%
Program Proposal	75 points	15%
TOTAL	500 points	100%

Assessments

Quizzes

Four quizzes will be administered to assess the students' knowledge of lecture and text materials. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

Discussions

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Four discussions will take place during the term. You should post a minimum of 3 posts per discussion thread: one initial post responding to the prompt/question (by 11:59pm Wednesday of the week it is assigned) and two response posts to your fellow classmates that further the discussion. All answers should be “backed up” with documentation. Be sure to cite your references in APA format. Each initial post should be a minimum of 300 words, and each peer-response post should be a minimum of 100 words. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

Legislative Advocacy Pitch

Students will select an existing, well-functioning nutrition program and isolate a highly specific sub-program or niche intervention (list of example options will be provided). Assuming the role of a public health advocate, students will record a 3-to-5-minute mock legislative testimony directed at a specific, identified policymaking body. The pitch must synthesize epidemiological data, evaluate the program's efficacy, and deliver an evidence-based argument advocating for the program's continued funding or strategic expansion. Specific details regarding the required use of peer-reviewed literature to support all claims will be provided in the LMS.

Nutrition Program

Students will develop a small-scale program that can target a small, focused audience. For instance, you may be developing a nutrition program for the WIC Breastfeeding Program to be delivered for a church or small working group. Students will produce a brochure or flyer to advertise the program. Also students will produce a 10-15 minute presentation delivering the information as a public health practitioner would. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

Program Proposal

Students will be given a prompt identifying a unique nutritional need among a unique population in the United States. They will be tasked with developing a formal program proposal. This will be an extensive project that will be conducted over much of the semester. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.ETAMU.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@ETAMU.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students can expect a response to contact (email preferred) within 48 hours. Generally, the instructor will attempt to respond to contact as soon as possible. Assignments will be graded and posted in a timely manner. Office hours are posted and appointments should be scheduled during those times.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Your engagement with course content is essential for success. If you experience an illness, emergency, or anything else that prevents you from participating in the course, please reach out as soon as possible. Late work will only be accepted with a valid, documented excuse.

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Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.ETAMU.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.ETAMU.edu/counsel

AI Use in Courses

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

subject to change

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NUTR 514 Planned Schedule		
Week	Topic	Assignments (Due Date)
1	Syllabus & Introduction (Edelstein) Ch. 1: Applying Nutrition Science to Community and Public's Health (Edelstein) – Ch. 3: Creating and Influencing Public and Nutrition Policy (Boyle) – Ch. 3: A National Nutrition Agenda for the Public's Health Assign Projects	Syllabus Acknowledgment (6/7) Discussion 1 (6/7) Quiz 1 (6/7)
2	(Edelstein) Ch. 4: Role of the Federal Agencies (Boyle) Ch. 7: The Art and Science of Policy Making (Edelstein) Ch. 9: Growing a Healthier Nation Work on Projects	Discussion 2 (6/14) Quiz 2 (6/14) Legislative Advocacy Pitch (6/14)
3	(Edelstein): Ch. 13: Food Security (Edelstein) Ch. 14: Safeguarding and Securing the Food Supply (Edelstein) Ch. 16: Staffing, Managing, and Leading Work on Projects	Discussion 3 (6/21) Quiz 3 (6/21) Program Proposal Draft (6/21)
4	(Edelstein) Ch. 15: Grant Writing (Edelstein) Ch. 16: Staffing, Managing, and Leading (Edelstein) Ch. 20: Striving for Excellence and Envisioning the Future Submit Nutrition Program Review Program Proposal Revisions	Discussion 4 (6/28) Quiz 4 (6/28) Nutrition Program (6/28)
FINALS	Finals Week	Program Proposal (7/1)

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