



## **NUTR 521 – 01W**

### **Nutrition Policy**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2026

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Katharine Halfacre, PhD

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: N/A

University Email Address: [Katharine.Halfacre@etamu.edu](mailto: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. Toland Jr., G.D., Nganje, W.E., & Onyeaghala, R. (2018). *US Agricultural and Food Policies: Economic Choices and Consequences*. Routledge. Access at <https://www.routledge.com/US-Agricultural-and-Food-Policies-Economic-Choices-and-Consequences/Toland-Jr-Nganje-Onyeaghala/p/book/9781138208292>

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 other institutions that influence food production, distribution and consumption. Real-

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world controversies and debates motivate the course's attention to economic principles, research tools, policy analysis, and contemporary data sources.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Understand contemporary U.S. food policy as it relates to agriculture, environment, trade, food manufacturing, retail, food safety, dietary guidelines, food labeling, marketing, food insecurity and nutritional assistance programs, and child nutrition programs.
2. Conduct effective policy analysis.
3. Integrate learning through critical thinking and engagement in discussions and collaborative writing.
4. Write for advocacy and policy refinement.

## **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 incorporates lectures, readings, hands-on learning activities, and traditional assessments to build an understanding of US food and agricultural policies, their benefits, and their consequences. Discussions are incorporated to teach students how to effectively engage in advocacy and policymaking.

### **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.

## **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

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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.

<b>Grade Item</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
Assignments (4)	25 points each	5% x 4 = 20%
Quizzes (4)	25 points each	5% x 4 = 20%
Discussions (4)	25 points each	5% x 4 = 20%
Midterm	50 points	10%
Final Paper	75 points	15%
Final Exam	75 points	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Assessments**

### **Assignments**

Students will complete assignments related to the lecture and text materials. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

### **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**

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.

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**Midterm Exam**

A midterm exam will be administered to assess the specialized knowledge and skills acquired.

**Final Paper**

The final paper will be assigned in Week 6. Specific details will be provided in the LMS.

**Final Exam**

A comprehensive final exam will be administered to assess the specialized knowledge and skills acquired.

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.ETAMU.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](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](mailto: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.

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## **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.

### **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>

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## **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>

## **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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu)

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

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

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## **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 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>

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

## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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](http://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.

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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\*

<b>NUTR 521</b>		
<b>Planned Schedule</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments (Due Date)</b>
<b>1</b>	Syllabus Introduction Ch. 1: Introduction to Policy Analysis Ch. 2: 21st Century Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges Ch. 3: Policy Analysis Toolbox	Syllabus Acknowledgment (7/12) Quiz 1 (7/12) Discussion 1 (7/12) Assignment 1 (7/12)
<b>2</b>	Ch. 4: Analyzing Economic Consequences of Farm Safety Net Programs in 2014 Farm Bill Ch. 5: Food Safety Modernization Act Ch. 6: US AG and Food Sector Connections to Global	Discussion 2 (7/19) Assignment 2 (7/19) Quiz 2 (7/19) Midterm Exam (7/19)

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	<p>Economy</p> <p>Ch. 7: Analyzing USDA Nutrition Programs</p> <p>MIDTERM</p> <p>Assign Final Paper Topics</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p>Ch. 8: Economic Choices and Outcomes</p> <p>Ch. 9: Research, Technology, and the Growth of Sustainable Agriculture Production</p> <p>Ch. 10: Exploring Multi-Dimensional Aspects of Food Security</p>	<p>Discussion 3 (7/26)</p> <p>Quiz 3 (7/26)</p> <p>Assignment 3 (7/26)</p>
<b>4</b>	<p>Ch. 11: 21st Century Perspectives on Rural Development</p> <p>Ch. 12: Current Developments and New Dynamics Influencing AG and Food Policy</p> <p>Ch. 13: When Policies work at Cross-Purposes</p> <p>Final Exam Opens</p>	<p>Assignment 4 (8/2)</p> <p>Discussion 4 (8/2)</p> <p>Quiz 4 (8/2)</p>
<b>FINALS</b>	<p>Finals Week</p>	<p>Final Exam (8/6)</p> <p>Final Paper (8/6)</p>

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