

Public Health Seminar: Perspectives on the Food System

HLSC-4990-02 / HLSC-5990-01 / HLSC-4990-03 / HLSC-5990-02

Syllabus for Spring 2016, University of Wyoming

Meeting Location & Times: Health Sciences Room 105

- HLSC 4990-02 & 5990-01 Mondays **1:10 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (lecture only: for those who signed up for one credit)
- HLSC 4990-03 & 5990-02 Mondays **1:10 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** (lecture + discussion: for those who signed up for two credits)

Instructor: Lacey Gaechter

Candidate for Master's Degree in Kinesiology & Health

Corbett 130 (Food Dignity office)

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Office hours: Mondays by appointment (appointments welcome!)

Supporting instructor: Dr. Christine Porter

Assistant Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair in Community & Public Health

Corbett 117

christine.porter@uwyo.edu, (307) 766-2143

Office hours: by appointment

Required Text: Neff, R., ed. 2015. *Introduction to the US food system: public health, environment, and equity*. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA.

About this Course

According to the Institute of Medicine, public health's mission is "to assure the conditions for people to be healthy." In contrast with clinical health, public health works at the community or population level, not at the individual one. Public health focuses on prevention and wellness, not treatment and illness.

Our local, national and international food systems – which encompass everything from what goes into production (e.g., labor, water and fertilizer) to distribution (currently hunger results from lack of distribution, not from lack of food) to waste (e.g., sewage, CO₂, trash and compost) – heavily impact the conditions for people to be healthy.

In this course, an interdisciplinary series of lecturers will address some part of the US food system from the perspective of her/his profession, practice or discipline. To provide some cohesion and a steady public health lens, we will read chapters from the *Introduction to the US Food System* text (and other readings as assigned) before each seminar. Students enrolled in the 2 credit version of this course will have the additional opportunity to process and contextualize course material during the discussion hour which will follow each lecture.

Objectives

Fourteen seminars cannot provide an overview of all the main concepts and issues in public health. Additional topics may be covered in future iterations of this seminar series. However, by the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define the term “food system.”
2. Discuss public health implications at each stage of the food system.
3. Describe the food system and its health implications from perspectives other than your own.
4. Discuss how each of the topics in this seminar series applies to your current or intended professional practice and personal life.

Presenters, instructors, and classmates will offer worldviews that may vary from your own and may contradict other information given in the class. The purpose of this course is to offer an appreciation of these different views. **Please always be respectful and focus on increasing your understanding rather than arguing your point.**

Assignments

Everyone:

- Reading: **You will have a reading assigned each week, due before class** and with the purpose of putting that day’s lecture in context. Most of these readings will come from your text, *Introduction to the US Food System*. Assigned readings (and lecture topics) will be posted to WyoCourses on an on-going basis.
- Reading quizzes: We will have an **electronic quiz each week on the readings, also due before each class**. Your reading is an essential part of gaining an understanding of the public health implications of the US food system from this course, and the quizzes are designed to both help motivate you and to test your overall understanding. They are open book. Quizzes will be posted to WyoCourses by each Wednesday due by the following Monday before class, submitted by 12:45pm. To get an “S” in the course, you **must take all quizzes, even if you are missing class**. (For graduate students, even take the quiz you create please.) Also, to get an “S,” your average quiz grade must be 70% or higher, with the lowest 2 scores dropped (however, again, you must take all quizzes to get an S).

Additional assignment for graduate students (all those enrolled in 5990 level sections):

Writing quizzes: Each 5990 student will **create 1 reading quiz at some point during the semester**. I will provide samples, sign up, and more detailed instructions via WyoCourses. The reading quiz you write has two due dates with work required in between:

- first draft is due 10 days (Friday by noon) before the relevant class reading is due
- new drafts are due within 24 hours of receiving comments from Lacey – with several iterations expected.
- final draft is due 7 days before the reading is due (Monday by noon).

... Assignments Continued

Additional assignment for all students enrolled in 2 credit sections (4990-03 and 5990-02):

- Final presentation: Each student in the discussion section will **share an original presentation, video, work of art, poem, etc.** inspired by this course. The discussion portion of our last day of class will be dedicated to this sharing, but students may present earlier in the semester if desired. We will discuss this assignment more early in the semester.

The use of WyoCourses is required in this course. You will have no way of completing required assignments without it. Please see Lacey if you need assistance using WyoCourses.

Grading

This course is graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). To achieve an S, you must meet the following criteria:

Everyone:

- Accrue no more than 2 absences.
- Accrue no more than 4 unexcused “tardies” (talk to Lacey if you’re going to be late).
- Take ALL reading quizzes and score at least a 70% average on the reading quizzes. Your lowest 2 scores will be dropped from your average, though you must have a score on each quiz (e.g., you cannot simply not take two of the quizzes; you must take all of the quizzes to receive an S).
- Participate by sharing an original thought/ question in at least 1 class (e.g. during the question and answer period).

Graduate students (all those enrolled in 5990 level sections):

- Create a usable reading quiz (e.g. one Lacey can use as the quiz for the class about the relevant week’s reading). Note that you will receive a U for this course if you do not complete this assignment adequately and on time. As such, you may wish to sign-up to create your quiz early in the semester in case you need to try again later in the semester.

All students enrolled in 2 credit sections (4990-03 and 5990-02):

- Participate by sharing an original thought/ question in the discussion portion of at least 4 classes, in addition to your 1 original thought/ question in lecture.
- Present a finished, clean final presentation product to the discussion section of the course that relates to covered course material and reflects at least 5 hours of work put into the product.

Basic Course Outline

(Subject to and extremely likely to change)

Class Date	Topic
25-Jan	Course/ Student Introduction
1-Feb	Production
8-Feb	Production
15-Feb	Production
22-Feb	Labor
29-Feb	Food
7-Mar	Processing/ Packaging/ Distribution
14-Mar	No Class - Start of Spring Break
21-Mar	Markets
28-Mar	Food Policy
4-Apr	TBD
11-Apr	Eating
18-Apr	Food Access
25-Apr	Food Movements
2-May	Last Class
9-May	Begin Finals Week

Course-specific policies:

Grades

This class is graded S/U. If you ever have a question about your grades or assignments, please let Lacey know via text, call, email, or arranged office visit. If you feel an error or misjudgment has been made in your grade, please visit with Lacey. Please note that while genuine requests for review are welcome, point hunting is not. Lacey reserves the right to grade downwards (subtracting points) as well as upwards (adding points) on any portion of an assignment submitted for re-grading.

Late Assignment Policy

No assignments will be accepted late.

Absences

You are allowed up to 2 absences. More than 2 = an unsatisfactory/U grade. If you know in advance you will need to miss any classes because of (e.g.) a conference or a game, plan accordingly and also please let Lacey know. If something tragic happens for you or your family that requires you to have more than two absences, also talk with Lacey to discuss options.

University-wide policies:

HONOR POLICY The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect, and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY Do not misrepresent any of your efforts on any academic task for which you receive a grade. University Regulation 802 will be followed in cases of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarizing, etc.).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her/him from fully demonstrating her/his ability should contact the course instructor as soon as possible so that the student and instructor can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation. It is recommended that students with disabilities also contact the Student Educational Opportunity Office, Room 330 Knight Hall (766-6189).

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES Know the location of the fire alarm; dial 911 in the event of an emergency; and evacuate using nearest exit.

