

Nutrition 875
Nutrition Policy Seminar
Fall Semester, 2010

Instructors: Alice Ammerman, Dr.PH., R.D.
Professor, Department of Nutrition
Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, CB#7426

Office Telephone: 919-966-6082

E-mail: alice_ammerman@unc.edu

Teaching Assistant: Tosha Smith

E-mail: tosha.smith@gmail.com

Class Schedule: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:50pm

Location: Rosenau 228

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the process and methods of policy assessment, advocacy, authorization, and implementation; considering policies at multiple levels (organizational, local, state, and federal) and environmental change related to improved health through nutrition and physical activity.

Course Objectives

- Define policy and policy development
- Describe theories of the policy process and policy change
- Describe the policy-making process in the U.S.
- Identify and apply the stages of policy development, stakeholders, and key decision makers, and apply to current policy issues
- Be able to define current public health nutrition problems that are of national concern
- Better understand the process of policy evaluation, as well as alternative policy and environment strategies that impact public health outcomes
- Be able to support policy recommendations with qualitative and quantitative analyses

Course Requirements: 1 vs. 2 credits

1 Credit: Nutrition Biochemistry and Epidemiology doctoral students. Class attendance and participation is essential. Grade is based on this and Assignment 1.

2 Credit: Grade is based on class attendance and participation, and assignments 1 and 2.

Course Requirements & Grading

Final grades for 1 credit students will be based on:

Class attendance and participation 75%

- Please note that class attendance and participation are important. Please notify Tasha if you need to miss a class.
- Assignment 1 25%

Final grades for 2 credit students will be based on:

Class attendance and participation 50%

- Please notify Tasha if you need to miss a class; however, please note that class participation is obviously significant.

Assignment 1 15%

Assignment 2 35%

Course Readings

Assigned readings are (or will be) posted in the Resources section of the Sakai site. Lecture slides, if received before class by the guest speaker, will also be posted in the same location.

Lecture/Discussion Schedule

August 25

- Course Introduction
- Overview of the Legislative Process
Guest Speaker: Kendra Cotton, PhD Candidate (UNC Dept of Political Science)

September 1

- Understanding the Farm Bill
- *Guest Speaker: Scott Marlow (RAFI)*

September 8

- Obesity-related Policy in North Carolina: Current Activity and Strategies
- *Guest Speakers: Leah Devlin, DDS MPH (UNC SPH, Former State Health Director) Lee Dixon (Legislative Staff, NC Obesity Task Force)*

September 15

- Farm to School Programs in NC
- *Guest Speaker: Gary Gay (NC Dept of Agriculture)*

September 22

- Leadership for Obesity Prevention 2010: What can we learn from tobacco abuse prevention and control?
- *Guest Speaker: Sally Herndon, MPH (NC Division of Public Health)*

September 29

- Increasing Healthy Food Access in Underserved Communities
- *Guest speaker: Sheila Fleischhacker, PhD, JD (UNC Center for HPDP)*

October 6

- School Health Programs and Policies
- *Guest speaker: Rebecca Reeve, PhD, CHES (NC DHHS)*

October 13

- WIC Policies and Procedures (Alice Lenihan) and Health Care Reform (Pam Silberman)
- *Guest Speakers: Alice Lenihan, MPH, RD (NC Division of Public Health) and Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH (NC Institute of Medicine)*

October 20

NO CLASS – Fall Break

October 27

- Food Safety and Processing Concerns in Livestock and Produce Farming
- *Guest Speakers: Chris Heany, PhD (Kellogg Health Scholars Post Doc), Ben Chapman, PhD (NC State Dept of Food and Consumer Science)*

November 3

- Worksite Wellness Programs
- *Guest Speaker: Laura Linnan (UNC SPH, Dept of HBHE)*

- Physical Activity Policy
- *Guest Speakers: Philip Bors (UNC Active Living by Design Project), Mark Dessauer (UNC Active Living by Design Project)*

November 10

- Healthy Food Environments Pricing Initiatives
- *Guest Speaker: Anne Turnbull, NC Prevention Partners*

November 17

NO CLASS

November 24

NO CLASS Thanksgiving

December 1

- Obesity Policy from the Legislator and Lobbyist Perspective
- Guest Speaker: Senator Purcell, Representative Insko (both NC State Legislators)
 - Betsy Vetter: NC Alliance for Health

December 8

- “Policy in Action” Class Project Presentations