

**Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy**

**NUTB 206: Global Food and Nutrition Policy**

**Summer 2022**

**Class Time:** Online, varying times; Residency: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm; 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm)

**Instructor:**

Eileen Kennedy, D.Sc.

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**Office Hours:** Office hours by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**

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**Office Hours:** Office hours by appointment (Skype/Zoom or phone)

**Credit:** 3.0 SHUs

**Prerequisites:** None

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**Course Description**

The Global Food and Nutrition Policy course is designed to introduce students to US and global nutrition policy, to key players within the US and international/global landscape, current initiatives, debates and discussions in nutrition policy, typologies of policy initiatives, successful flagship interventions, successful dietary guidance systems and multi sector approaches to addressing food insecurity and nutrition.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- a. Explain the difference between policy and programs.

- b. Describe policymaking in the United States, including how a bill becomes a law, how a law becomes a rule, and the budget process.
- c. Understand international governance structures and evaluate policy initiatives relevant to food and nutrition.
- d. Identify the roles of key institutions and organizations involved in nutrition policy and programming around the globe and at country level (US and non-US).
- e. Analyze how science influences the policy agenda, and how policy debates influence the scientific agenda.
- f. Identify a variety of policy-making tools and determine in which situations they are most appropriate.
- g. Explain common challenges to policymaking.
- h. Explain common factors that are needed to progress a policy agenda.

### **Texts or Materials**

Readings will be posted on the course site — there is no required textbook. Readings are grouped by date. It is expected that readings will be completed in advance of each class. Not all readings will be discussed in class; rather they will serve as a basis upon which class lectures and discussions will build.

### **Academic Conduct**

Each student is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, as specified in the Friedman School's Policies and Procedures manual

(<http://nutrition.tufts.edu/student/documents>) and Tufts University policies

(<http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/documents/HandbookAcademicIntegrity.pdf>)

It is the responsibility of each student to understand and comply with these standards, as violations will be sanctioned by penalties ranging from failure on an assignment and the course to dismissal from the school.

### **Assessments and Grading**

Class assignments and their contribution to your overall grade are as follows:

<b>Case Study Analysis: Healthy Food Systems</b>	20%
<b>Policy Memo</b>	20%
<b>Response to Questions</b>	30%
<b>Final Project – Addressing a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)</b>	30%

### **Case Study Analysis**

There will be one case study, the topic of which is a current issue or debate in domestic or international nutrition programming, policy and/or communications. Students in the class will be assigned to a group representing a different constituency. The topic of the case study is:

#### **1. Healthy Food Systems**

For the case study, each group will be responsible for preparing a 10-minute oral testimony before class, presenting their testimony on the day of assignment discussion, and submitting a written copy of the oral testimony by **11:59 pm, June 9<sup>th</sup>** prior to the oral testimony presentation. One group member will present the oral testimony. Following the presentation of all groups, the remaining group member(s) who did not present the oral testimony should be prepared to discuss and defend the perspective of the constituent group they represent.

**Due Date:** Assignment is due **11:59 pm, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Policy Memo**

The goal of a policy memo is to provide concise background, analysis, and guidance in a specific area of public policy. A well-written policy memo requires efficient use of language to summarize a complicated issue and convince the reader of a particular position. For this assignment, you will choose an *area of policy related to a current area of food and nutrition that you would like to address, and a specific policymaker to whom you are writing.*

**Length:** Your memo should be written for delivery to an influential policymaker of your choice, and should be **no longer than two pages, single spaced, Arial 12 font with 1" margins**. We highly recommend discussing your topic ideas with the TA a few weeks before the assignment is due.

**Due Date:** Assignment is due **11:59 pm, June 29<sup>th</sup>** (Week 6)

### **Response to Questions**

Each student will be required to answer four questions listed in Appendix 1. The response to the questions is listed by week of appropriate lecture and are due Friday at 11:59 pm. The response should be one or two pages. Answers longer than two pages will not be graded. Please include references. They do not count towards your page length. Your weekly responses should be **double spaced, Arial 12 font with 1" margins**.

**Due Date:** Assignment is due **11:59 pm on Fridays (Weeks 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12)**

### **Final Project: Addressing a Sustainable Development Goal**

There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which drive the global development agenda. Most countries of the world have endorsed these guidelines. Each student will select an SDG from the following list and develop a plan/strategy to address this SDG within a specific country. The plan developed must focus on how the specific SDG can be used as a strategy within a particular country for improving food security and nutrition. The student can choose any country for this project (including the USA). The final document must be submitted on canvas on the date of the final exam (August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022). Late submissions will not be accepted. The rubric for this project is shown in Appendix 2.

**Due Date: Final Assignment due 11:59 pm, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Submission Style**

Please ensure that you use the following nomenclature for all your submissions:

**lastname\_assignmentname\_assignmentnumber** (for example, Kasturi\_Policymemo; Kasturi\_weeklyresponse\_week4). Also, submit all your assignments as in MS Word format ONLY. **Points will be docked for not following the style guide/submission style for the assignments.**

**Technical Support**

All online and technical support is provided by Tufts IT Support. They are available 24x7 and are good for systems access and basic Canvas issues. Faculty and TAs should not be contacted for online support.

IT Support contact information (available 24x7):

- **Telephone:** (617) 627-3376
- **Email:** [it@tufts.edu](mailto:it@tufts.edu)

### Accommodation of Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to academic accommodation appropriate to their needs. If you require accommodations for this course, please contact Dr. Eileen Kennedy confidentially prior to the end of the second week of classes.

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Week	Lecturer	Assignments Due
May 25 <sup>th</sup> – May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Global Food and Nutrition Policy	1	Kennedy	<b>Bias Post Due 11:59 PM May 25<sup>th</sup></b>
May 30 <sup>th</sup> – June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Food Systems: Part 1	2	Kennedy	
June 6 <sup>th</sup> – June 12 <sup>th</sup>  Residency:  <b>June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Food Systems: Part 2	3 Residency	Kennedy	<b>Case Study Submit opening statement by 11:59 pm, June 9<sup>th</sup></b>
June 13 <sup>th</sup> – June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Normative Guidance and Use in Policy Formation	4	Kennedy	<b>Research policy memo topics. Submit topic for feedback by June 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:59PM</b>
June 20 <sup>th</sup> – June 26 <sup>th</sup>	US Food and Nutrition Policy Processes	5	Kennedy	
June 27 <sup>th</sup> – July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	US and Global Food Security	6	Kennedy	<b>Policy Memo Due June 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:59PM</b>
July 4 <sup>th</sup> – July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture	7	Kennedy	
July 11 <sup>th</sup> – July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maternal and Child Nutrition Part 1	8	Kennedy	

July 18 <sup>th</sup> – July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Maternal and Child Nutrition Part 2	9	Kennedy	
July 25 <sup>th</sup> – July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Global Micronutrient Malnutrition	10	Ghosh	
August 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Feeding Policies and Programs	11	Ghosh/Kennedy	
August 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Overweight, Obesity and NCDs	12	Kennedy	
August 15 <sup>th</sup> – August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Challenges for the Future of Nutrition	13	Kennedy	
August 17 <sup>th</sup> – August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Finals week study period	14		<b>Final Project completed by 11:59 PM August 17<sup>th</sup></b>

## **Appendix 1.**

**Discussion Questions: Answer any four of the following questions during this semester. The 1-to-2-page answer is due prior to the next class e.g., week 1 question is due on the Wednesday before week 2 lecture.**

1. **Week 1:** One reason given for the rising rates of under nourishment by FAO over the past few years is conflict. What ways might you suggest for mitigating food insecurity in conflict countries or zones?
2. **Week 4:** Anemia in women of childbearing age has been shown to be an intractable problem. What are solutions at the country level that can deal with this continuing problem?
3. **Week 6:** What are potential game-changing solutions for food system transformation?
4. **Week 7:** How can we create a more sustainable urban food system? **“or”**
5. **Week 7:** The Pre-Summit to the UN Food Systems Summit, held in July 2021, in Rome emphasized an agroecological approach as one useful agricultural strategy for sustainable agriculture. Why has agroecology not been widely used in the USA and what would you suggest to change this trajectory to get broader adoption of agro ecology?
6. **Week 8:** Households on SNAP, on average, do not purchase a nutritionally adequate diet. What are viable solutions for improving diet quality in SNAP households?
7. **Week 9:** What role does the political economy play in influencing the Sustainable Development Goals?
8. **Week 10:** Explain the pros and cons of including sustainability in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
9. **Week 11:** Can universal food fortification be used as a complementary strategy to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies?
10. **Week 12:** How would you judge the accuracy of food and nutrition information posted on social media?

## **Appendix 2.**

### **Framework for Final Project**

The overall objective of this project is to analyze how a specific Sustainable Development Goal (see below) can be used more effectively to improve food security and nutrition (FNS) within a country.

Each Student will choose a specific country for this project. This can be a developed or a low-middle income country.

The total project document should be 10-15 pages **single spaced, Arial 12 font with 1" margins**. Pages beyond 15 will not be graded. References are necessary and should be cited correctly (please choose a style you are familiar with).

### **Suggested Outline:**

1. General characteristics of the Country: 1/2 to 1 page in length: selected statistics might include GDP, population size, major foreign exchange earner, region of the world, land locked (yes/no), political situation (stable or not?) and other information as relevant.
2. Country specific goals and targets for the SDG you have chosen. It is important that the country you pick for analysis has this information available. It is important that you ascertain the availability of data prior to final selection of your country.
3. Current status and trends in food security and nutrition; as information is available, might include immediate causes (in your country – general statements not relevant), underlying causes, basic causes.
4. Current set of policies and programs targeted to food security and nutrition (FNS) – are these focused and well-designed to adequately address the determinants of FNS. You can use an appendix to list policies and programs – this will not count towards your page limit.
5. Identification of how your specific SDG (see list below) can be used to more effectively address FNS in the country. You can select any one of these four SDGs as the main focal point for this project. This should be the major portion of your paper.
6. Next steps – going forward – for your country.

This project cannot be completed in a few days. Success will depend on researching the data needed for your paper well beyond the due date.

Choose one of the following SDGs for the basis of your analysis within your chosen country:

1. Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
2. Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water
3. Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land
4. Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships for Goals