

Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

NUTB 206: Global Food and Nutrition Policy

Summer 2024

Class Time: Online, varying times; Residency: June 5, 6 & 7th 2024 (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 Assistant:

Naina Qayyum

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

Credit: 3.0 SHUs

Prerequisites: None

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.
- i) Explain what the implications for food and nutrition policies and programs for gender inequities and structural racism are.

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:

Case Study Analysis: Healthy Food Systems	20%
Policy Memo	20%
Response to Pre-Reads and Post-Reads: 5% for pre-read; 5% for post-read	50%
Comment on one other students posting (can be any week from weeks 2,4,7,8,or 12) 5% for pre-read; 5% for post-read	10%

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 specific 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 **7 pm Boston time, June 6th** 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: Written Assignment is due 7 pm, June 6th

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 Boston time, June 30th (Week 6)**

Response to Questions

Each student will be required to provide pre-class and post-class comments for questions listed in Appendix 1. The question requiring a response is listed by week of appropriate lecture and the pre-class comments are due Sunday before the week begins; for example, pre-class posting is due for Week 2 on Sunday, May 25th. The post-reads are due the Friday of the specific week. For example, the post-class comments are due for Week 2 on Friday, May 31st. The pre-class comments should be done before you access the readings or open the power point for that particular week. Comments should be posted on the Canvas discussion board. The response should answer the question completely and provoke discussion from your peers. The post-read comments should also be posted on Canvas.

Comments on other students' postings

Select one specific week from weeks 2,4,7,8, or 12. Comment on pre-class posting is due by at 11:59 on Monday of the specific week. For example, your comment on Week 2 question should be posted by Monday, May 26th. You may comment on more than one of the student postings. Comment on post-class posting (does not need to be the same student(s)) is due 11:59 on Saturdays (weeks 2,4,7,8 and 12). For example, post-class comment from you is due for week 2 on Saturday, June 1.

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

Accommodation of Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to academic accommodation appropriate to their needs. If you require accommodation 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 22 th – May 26 th	Global Food and Nutrition Policy	1	Kennedy	Bias Post Due 11:59 PM May 26th
May 27– June 2 th	Food Systems: Part 1	2	Kennedy	
June 3 rd – June 9 th Residency: June 5,6, 7th	Food Systems: Part 2	3 Residency	Kennedy	Case Study Submit opening statement by 7:00 pm, June 6th
June 10 th – June 16 th	Normative Guidance and Use in Policy Formation	4	Kennedy	Policy memo topics. Submit topic for feedback by June 12th, 11:59PM

June 17 th – June 23 th	US Food and Nutrition Policy Processes	5	Kennedy	
June 24 th – June 30 th	US and Global Food Security	6	Kennedy	Policy Memo Due June 28th, 11:59PM
July 1st July 7th	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture	7	Kennedy	
July 8th July 14th	Maternal and Child Nutrition Part 1	8	Kennedy	
July 15 th – July 21st	Maternal and Child Nutrition Part 2	9	Kennedy	
July 22– July 28th	Global Micronutrient Malnutrition	10	Ghosh	
July 29 th – August 4th	School Feeding Policies and Programs	11	Ghosh/Kennedy	
August 5th– August 11th	Overweight, Obesity and NCDs	12	Kennedy	
August 12th August 18th	Challenges for the Future of Nutrition	13	Kennedy	

Appendix 1.

Pre-class and Post-class Comments: Required for weeks 2,4,7,8 and 12.-

Pre-class due the Sunday before the lecture at 7PM Boston time. Post-class posting due Fridays of the same week.

1. **Week 2:** How would you define a healthy diet?
2. **Week 4:** Globally, national food- based guidelines have not been effective in changing behaviors. Explain why?
3. **Week 7:** What does agriculture-nutrition linkages mean to you? Give one or more examples?
4. **Week 8 :** From lecture one we learned that anemia in women of child-bearing age has been an intractable problem. Why do you think this is?
5. **Week 12:** Statements like, "Obesity is due to the fact that people eat too much, and exercise too little." Please comment on this statement?

Post-class posting is an opportunity to revise your answer to the pre-class posting. You may want to explain why there is a change in your answer or alternatively why you did not revise your posting.