### Instructor:
Dr. Stephen J. Pintauro  
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### Office Hours:
Mondays, 9 – 10 am  
Thursdays, 3 – 4 pm  
Other times by appointment.

### Course Objectives:
The objective of this course is to have you gain a thorough understanding of the extent, applicability, and flexibility of United States food laws and regulations, and their relationships to the safety of the US food supply. Over the six-week duration of the class, we will focus on the structure of the federal government, how laws and regulations are enacted and enforced, detailed examination of selected food regulation topics, and how the food safety decision-making process works within the framework of the associated federal laws and regulations.

There is no required textbook for this class. All of the course materials are available from the course Blackboard site in the form of video lessons and readings. You should move through each of the lesson topics in order, according to the schedule outlined in the course syllabus. You are responsible for learning the course materials from these online video lessons and supplemental readings.

There will be two exams for this class. The mid-term exam will be scheduled for Thursday, October 11th. The final exam will be scheduled for Thursday, December 6th. These exams will be completed online and consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and some essay questions.

There will also be 10 online quizzes over the course of the semester. These will need to be completed in order, and by midnight of the dates indicated on this syllabus. The quizzes will consist of either 10 short answer questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching), or a short essay question.

Finally, all students will need to write a relatively short (2-3 page, typewritten, double-spaced) paper on the topic of GMO food labeling. Details at the end of this syllabus. The paper is due by Friday, November 16th (the Friday before Thanksgiving break).

**Students enrolled in the class for graduate credit will need to complete additional course requirements. Please see the “Graduate Credit Requirements” section at the end of this syllabus.**
Grading:

Undergraduate Credit:
- Quizzes: 20%
- Regulation paper: 20%
- Mid-term exam: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Graduate Credit:
- Quizzes: 15%
- Regulation paper: 10%
- Mid-term exam: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
- Grad Credit Assignment: 15% (see below for details)

Course Syllabus – Lesson Topics

NOTE: Although this is an online class, lecture topics will only be made available on Blackboard at the end of the deadline for the previous topics’ quiz. For example, the video lesson on the topic of “Overview of the Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act will be made available on Blackboard on Sept. 10th.

History of U.S. Food Regulation.
The Three Branches of Government.
The Legislative Process.

Quiz #1 (Due Monday, Sept. 10th)
U.S. Food Regulatory Agencies.
Use of Government Documents.

Quiz #2 (Due Monday, Sept. 10th)

Quiz #3 (Due Monday, Sept. 17th)
Major amendments to the FD&C Act
FDA Enforcement of the FD&C Act.
Quiz #4 (Due Monday, Sept. 24th)
Overview of The Food Safety Modernization Act
Regulation of Food Sanitation.
Regulation of Meat and Poultry.

Quiz #5 (Due Tuesday, Oct 9th)
Regulation of Imports and Exports.
Food Standards.

Quiz #6 (Due Monday, Oct 22nd)
Regulation of GMO's
Food Irradiation

Quiz #7 (Due Monday, Oct 29th)
Regulation of pesticides in foods
Regulation of Nutrition Labeling and Dietary Supplements.

Quiz #8 (Due Monday, Nov 5th)
Regulation of Food Advertising.
Product Liability.

Quiz #9 (Due Friday, Nov 16th)
Overview of FDA’s “Redbook”
Toxicological Principles for the Safety Assessment of Food Ingredients

Quiz #10 (Due Dec 3rd)
Toxicological Testing Methods.
Application of Risk Assessment in Food Regulation

Important Dates:
Mid-term exam (online) – Thursday, October 11th

GMO Labeling Regulation Paper due – Friday, November 16th

Final exam (online) – Thursday, December 6th

**Graduate Credit Requirements:**

Certainly, an important goal of a graduate education is to gain experience in teaching. Therefore, the objective of the additional graduate student course requirement for NFS 253 will be to require the graduate student to prepare and deliver a course lecture topic to be included in the particular semester’s regular lecture syllabus. Since NFS 253 is a completely online class, this lecture assignment will take the form of a recorded PowerPoint screencast presentation on a new or expanded topic related to Food Regulation. The presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. The course instructor (S. Pintauro) will provide the graduate student with the tools and tutorials for preparing a screencast lecture. There will be specific deadlines for completion of this project over the course of the semester. Based on a 15 week semester:

**End of Week Two:** Graduate student must submit a selected topic for the PowerPoint screencast to the instructor for review and approval, along with the learning objectives associated with the topic. The instructor (S. Pintauro) will provide graduate students with some suggested presentation topics, or the student may identify one on their own.

**End of Week Five:** Graduate student must submit the completed PowerPoint slide presentation for review by the instructor, along with an outline/notes of what the graduate student’s audio recording will cover.

**End of Week Eight:** Graduate student will submit a completed recording of the PowerPoint screencast for review by the instructor.

**End of Week Ten:** Final PowerPoint screencast will be posted on the class Blackboard site and assigned to others in the class. The graduate student will also prepare a short online quiz to be administered to the other students in the class, assessing the extent to which the learning objectives were met by the class.

**End of Semester:** The graduate student will submit a short (2-3 page) self-evaluation of the experience that will address what worked well, what didn’t work well, and how it can be improved (or what would the student do differently next time).

**Written Paper Assignment - GMO Food Labeling:**
Read the assigned GMO Labeling reading assignments on Blackboard. Prepare a 2-3 page response to the following points:

After reviewing the Vermont Draft Rule, do you think it was a good rule and why?

After reviewing the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard Act, do you think it is a good law?

What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Vermont versus the federal law?

Do you think required labeling of GM foods helps consumers make “informed decisions”?

Can you describe and discuss an example (real or hypothetical) when a food labeling requirement may make it more difficult for a consumer to make an informed decision?