Syllabus for Animal Products in Human Nutrition – Food for Thought
(HCOL 186 M)

Course Information

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<tr>
<th>Course Information</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Credits: 3 Credit Hours</td>
<td>Name: Dr. Jana Kraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration: Jan 16 - May 4, 2018</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Jana.Kraft@uvm.edu">Jana.Kraft@uvm.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Days: Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Phone: (802) 656-5489</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time: 4:25 - 5:40 PM</td>
<td>Office: 219 Terrill Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: University Heights North (UHTN) Multipurpose room</td>
<td>Office Hours: By appointment</td>
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Pre/co-requisite

Honors College sophomore standing.
Basic concepts from high school biology and chemistry are expected.

Course Description

Animal agriculture is a significant portion of our national agricultural economy and foods of animal origin play a significant role in our global food system. A striking but lesser known fact is that animal-derived food products have been an important factor in human evolution (e.g., eating meat has led to increases in the size of both the human body and brain). Current dietary patterns derive from the changes in food production that started with the industrial revolution and from the more recent construction of a global food economy. With increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, obesity, and food-borne diseases, animal products are coming under increasing scrutiny. General areas of focus reflect global patterns of consumption of eggs, dairy, meat, honey, fish, and their products. We will explore the connection between animal products, their nutritional attributes, human health/disease, and public perception. The course utilizes an interactive approach, involving a broad spectrum of methods including lectures to build fundamental knowledge, student forums to stimulate debate and understanding, individual and group
assignments to develop key skills in writing and presenting, and the use of computer-aided learning.

**General Course Goal and Learning Objectives**

The goal of this course is to develop a basic understanding of the science of animal products in regards to production, consumption, nutritional value, and health aspects. Furthermore, the goal is for you to develop an ability to discern between the truth and fiction about animal-derived foods in human nutrition, to ask insightful questions, and to find the answers. This course is designed to achieve the following learning objectives:

1. To understand the basic composition and quality aspects of animal-derived foods and their contribution to human nutrition.
2. To understand the scientific foundation of animal food production.
3. To recognize that food choices have nutritional, cultural, psychological, economic, and safety impacts.
4. To critically evaluate animal-derived foods in regards to their impact on human health/disease.
5. To develop strong critical thinking and writing skills.
6. To learn to work as a team to critically and creatively present information.

**Textbooks and Support Materials**

There is no requirement to purchase a text book for this class. All required and ancillary reading materials will be posted to the course Blackboard site.

**Blackboard course site**

The course Blackboard site will be actively used. This syllabus and tentative class schedule will be posted on Blackboard. Updates to the class schedule will be posted on Blackboard. Reading materials, copies of the lecture, and assignments will be posted under the Course Materials section. Assignments need to be submitted through Blackboard. Grades will be posted through Blackboard. Additional Blackboard use may be required.
Course Evaluation and Grades

Your final grade will include the following elements:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>pts</th>
<th>(%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance, participation, and homework</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>(20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debates</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>(30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>(50)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>(100)</td>
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**Class attendance, participation, and homework**

Due to the nature of this course, I expect you to attend class, participate fully in discussions and in-class activities, and prepare ahead of class by completing your homework. Every absence counts 0.5% from the final grade. Attendance policy begins on the first day of class. Please email me ahead of time if absence is unavoidable. Active participation in class is expected (e.g., debates) and rewarded (within reason). You can expect to be directly and randomly called upon to discuss reading material, questions, etc. during class. Everyone’s views are valuable, and will be respected.

There will be occasional reading assignments (homework). In addition, there will be one homework writing assignment (essay, worth 25 points/5% of your final grade). The assignment will be posted on the course Blackboard site. The due date will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. The assignment will be due by the start of class time (4:25 PM) on the specified date. If the assignment is turned in late within 24 hours of the time due, it will be marked down 50%. No assignment will be accepted after 24 hours of the time due in the absence of extenuating circumstances. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, you must make arrangements (at least 2 days before the due date) to submit an assignment past the due date.

**Debates**

Over the course of the semester we will have nine debates on a controversial issue. Each student will be engaged in two debates - each debate is worth 75 points (15% of the final grade). You are not expressing your opinion - rather - you are assigned once an affirmative ("why the topic is true") and once a negative ("why the topic is false") position on the question. You will draw your debate topic and position at the beginning of the second class. Each debate will have two teams with two individuals on each team. The rest of the
students will serve as judges and will take part in further questioning. As part of this assignment, teams will submit a two-page paper (include at least 10 references) that clearly defines the issues and arguments from their perspective. The class will vote by secret ballot for the winner (this will not be part of the grade). An outline of the debate format (speaking order, activity and time) can be found on our class Blackboard site and will be discussed in class.

**Term Project**

The term project is a substantial and important piece of this course (50% of your final grade; 250 points). We will form teams of two; each team will write a research (review) paper on a self-selected topic pertaining to animal products and human health (each topic can be only selected once!) and present the paper to the class in form of a 20 min PowerPoint presentation. Your paper must be no shorter or longer than 13-15 double spaced pages (excluding references) in 12-point type size and will be worth 175 points (35% of the final grade). The presentation is worth 50 points (10% of the final grade). In addition, you will need to complete a student term project peer evaluation (25 points). We will discuss this assignment in depth in class.

**Timelines:**

- January 30 (Tuesday) – propose a *project title/topic* by (via email)
- February 13 (Tuesday) – general *outline* of the topics covered in your paper (via email)
- March 01 (Thursday) – 12 key references that will be used in the term paper (via email)
- April 12 (Thursday) – *draft* for peer-review (bring 2 hardcopies to class)
- April 19 (Thursday) – return peer-review
- April 26 (Thursday) – final research paper (bring 1 hardcopy to class)

**Note:** During the week of March 5 to March 9, there will be a consultation with me to provide additional guidance and feedback. *Please email me at least two weeks ahead to set up a meeting time.*
The course grade will be determined by the total earned out of 500 points (cumulative points) possible. The grade cut-offs are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>485</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>484</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>XF*</td>
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<td>469</td>
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*Failure due to academic dishonesty

I have no intention of grading on a curve based on class performance.

Information on University grading policy can be found in the catalog on-line at: http://catalogue.uvm.edu/undergraduate/ or by the following hyperlink to grading. Incompletes are rare. You must have done 80% of the coursework at a passing level in order to be eligible, and you must have experienced some unusual interruption in your ability to do the work (e.g., serious illness or the arrival of a child in the last weeks of the semester). If you find yourself in this situation, please tell me ASAP so we can make plans for you to complete the course.

If you would like to contest your final course grade, please follow the procedures outlined in the University grade appeals policy: http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/gradeappeals.pdf.

**Academic Honesty / Plagiarism**

You are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the “Academic Honesty Policy Procedures” http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf. Be particularly careful to avoid plagiarism when working on written assignments. All work that are not your own original ideas, thoughts or research must be cited in the text of your paper and the source referenced at the end of your paper. Citations appear directly in the text of your paper after the idea/opinion/fact/ research that you have obtained from another author. Citations guide the reader to your reference list at the back of the paper. If you use written material from a source (i.e., journal article, book website, etc.), you must write the information in your own words, then cite and reference your source. The only exception to
this is if you put the text in quotation marks (e.g., “text”) and directly state that you are quoting that author. If you take text directly, word-for-word, from another author (including websites), without writing about the ideas/opinions/facts/research in your own words and without putting it in quotation marks, even if you cite and reference the source, this IS plagiarism, and your instructors have a zero tolerance for this. Offenses against the Code of Academic Integrity are deemed serious and insult the integrity of the entire academic community. Any suspected violations of the Code will not be tolerated and all allegations will be forwarded to the Center for Student Ethics & Standards.

Religious Holidays
Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Please submit in writing (via email) by the end of the second week of classes your documented religious holiday schedule for this semester. In those cases, students will be allowed to make up any missed work.

Student Learning Accommodations and Special Needs
Students who need special accommodation or services should contact Student Accessibility Services http://www.uvm.edu/access/. In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact SAS.

Writing Center
For support and feedback at any point in the writing process, consult with a tutor at the Writing Center. To make an appointment (it’s free!) or apply for a Writing Partner, call 656-4075 or visit uvm.edu/writingcenter.

Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities
uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/studentcode.pdf

FERPA Rights Disclosure
Know your rights regarding access to, and privacy of your student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/ferpa.pdf
Classroom etiquette

- In an effort make the most of our class time, please arrive on time and stay until class is concluded.
- Please silence your cell phones, put away cell phones, laptops, music players, iPads, etc. before entering the class.
- Be polite and respective to other people in the class. For example, do not interrupt someone during a class discussion, and respect others' opinions/comments as you would like them to respect yours.

Note: This syllabus attempts to be complete, but the instructor reserves the right throughout the course to make appropriate changes in a timely way.