

NEW!

Undergraduate/Graduate Course

PUBAFRS 5890 - US Food Policy
3 credits

Monday-Thursday - 10:00am-12:20pm
Friday - clinic (1-on-1 meetings)

Summer 2016 First 4 week session
May 9-June 3

Course Description: An examination of national food affairs; the policy and practice of food. The approach is to introduce institutions, tools and topics. The numerous federal public and private agencies such as the FDA, USDA, CDC and others are described. Common policy tools such as information-based, process versus performance standards, and interactions with market-based public-private partnerships will be placed within their motivating theory and discussed in a supply-chain context. Attention will focus on contemporary policy issues including; food insecurity, health claims, obesity, novel crops, ingredients and processing techniques, sustainability, corporate consolidation, food advertising, and foodborne illness.

The major **learning objectives** are:

1. Identify the range of institutions which target modern-day food policy problems.
2. Evaluate the use of policy tools to address social, economic and environmental aspects of food.
3. Track the development of key federal food policy innovations, such as the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Farm Bill and *Food Safety Modernization Act*.
4. Conduct independent in-depth work to enhance research and communication skills.

Readings:

Parke Wilde. 2013. *Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction*. Earthscan/Routledge. ISBN-10: 1849714290; ISBN-13: 978-1849714297

Additional readings to be assigned through the course.

Carmen: Lecture notes, news and interesting links, announcements, grades, and other information as needed. You will need a pdf/adobe reader.

Expectations: Your attendance and involvement in class is vital, **be prepared to discuss the material assigned**. Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the full extent of OSU's Code of Student Conduct <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>. In particular, Section 3335-23-04 regards prohibited conduct, which is subject to disciplinary action. Files are to be uploaded to Carmen dropbox by **5:00pm on the due date**. Doctors notes are required if exam or other key deliverables are missed.

Grades:

Individual journal article review and presentation	15%	90% +	A or A-
Exam	25%	80% +	B+ B or B-
In-class discussion	10%	70% +	C+ C or C-
Individual presentation of paper	10%	60% +	D+ or D
Final individual paper	40%	50%+	E

TOTAL

100%

Instructions for Individual Journal Article Review and Presentation

The following assignment is designed to get you critically evaluating research about a contemporary **US** food policy issue and understanding the theory upon which the application is based. It is also intended to have you read articles in a key academic journal. Select a recent (2010 on) article from *Food Policy*. Prepare a summary and presentation of the institution, tool and topic -- approximately 1,000 words and 4 slides of a Powerpoint presentation. You will lead a Q&A discussion in class about what you have learned from the paper.

Be sure to reference your sources and work individually.

Instructions for Individual Paper

Final Paper 5,000 words

- Select a contemporary federal food policy topic and describe the evolution of institutions and tools over time. Be clear about what the policy is trying to solve.
- Collect secondary data about the policy environment and interpret using descriptive statistics.
- Recommend a new policy or changes to an existing policy based on insights from the data.

Presentation	10% of class grade
Criteria	Points
Non-verbal communication	15
Verbal	20
Timing	15
Content	40
Q&A	10
Total	100
Final Paper	40% of class grade
Criteria	Points
Grammar	50
Organization	50
Quality of analysis	150
Supporting data (charts, tables or figures)	100
Literature	50
Total	400

Class Schedule

Meeting	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction	Wilde 1 – 3
2	Institutions: US	
3	Institutions: Global	Wilde 4 IATP, Pinstrup-Andersen
4	Institutions: Supply Chains	Wilde 5 & 6
Journal Review Due Sunday May 15, 5pm Dropbox		
5	Individual presentations, journal article reviews	
6	Tools: Labels and Communications	Wilde 9
7	Tools: Standards	CBO
8	Tools: Managing Agricultural and Food Trade	WTO
Draft Paper Due Sunday May 22, 5pm Dropbox		
9 & 10	Topics: Food Safety and Traceability	Wilde 7; Souza-Monteiro and Hooker
11 & 12	Topics: Nutrition, Food Insecurity and Obesity	Wilde 8, 10 & 11
Take-home Exam Due Sunday May 29, 5pm Dropbox		
13	No class Monday May 30 – Memorial Day	
14	Topics: Sustainability - Local, Organic and Natural	WRAP
15	Where from here?	Wilde 12
16	Individual presentations	
Final Paper Due Friday June 3, 5pm Dropbox		

Summary timeline for Summer 2016	
Week 1 Topics 1-4 Journal review	Week 2 Topics 5-8 Draft paper
Week 3 Topics 9-12 Take home exam	Week 4 Topics 13-16 Final presentation and paper

Accommodation for Disabled Students

The Ohio State University Office for Disability Services is a key resource for disabled students who require assistance. If you anticipate needing their assistance contact them as soon as possible. 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue
 Tel: 614-292-3307 <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

Final Paper

Overview

There are different purposes and audiences for policy analysis or issue papers, and thus different formats. In this class, the purpose of the final paper is to *inform* stakeholders about a policy issue including strategic recommendations that can be implemented by local, state, federal or international government organizations.

The content of your final paper will be derived from a literature review of related research and best practices linked to original quantitative or qualitative analysis of evidence supporting a policy recommendation.

Literature Review of Related Research and Best Practices

In addition to your own analysis, you are expected to situate your contribution within the broader literature and practice related to your policy issue. This includes previous research on your policy issue, historical development of the issue and recent events (such as new or pending legislation), and best practices previously identified as they relate to your issue. Any *consistent* citation format is acceptable. A good final paper will incorporate ~10 substantial references, including a mix of scholarly and practitioner sources.

Original Analysis

The analysis will be the focal point of the paper, highlighting your original contribution. Draw from a variety of data sources for your final paper, including publicly available data sources at a local, state, national or international scale. You are not expected to run any multivariate models (i.e., regression analysis); however, you should present descriptive/summary statistics that you have “added-value” to, not merely cut-and-paste the data tables of other researchers.

Outline

Feel free to change the headings below, and/or add sub-headings as appropriate. This outline provides the “framework” that should be used to shape your final paper which should be about 5,000 words.

- 1) Title
 - Descriptive yet catchy; hooks the reader.
- 2) Aim/Summary
 - 2-4 short paragraphs
 - Provides the punch-line for the rest of the paper; describes the policy issue, identifies the analytical approach taken in this paper, and highlights the recommendations. All of the pertinent information should be clearly communicated in this “elevator” summary.
 - No statistics or data provided here; no citations of previous research.
- 3) Issue Context
 - Defines the issue of relevance to key stakeholders.
 - Convinces the target audience that this is an issue that they should care about
 - Reviews previous literature (research, news articles, policy briefs) on the issue. Visual aids such as tables and graphs can be used to replace text, where appropriate.
 - Clearly identifies the policy implications of this issue. Conveys a sense of urgency.
- 4) Analysis
 - Provides a descriptive quantitative (or qualitative) “unique” analysis of the policy issue.
- 5) Recommendations & Conclusion
 - Communicates specific, actionable implications.
 - Concludes re-emphasizing the importance and relevance of the issue to key stakeholders.
- 6) Key Sources
 - Cite all sources including weblinks.

Final Presentations

10% of your final grade

15 minutes of presentation + 5 minutes Q&A

Content of your presentation:

1. **Institution.** Which decision-makers are you targeting?
2. **Topic.** Why is it a POLICY problem?
3. **Stakeholders.** Who is affected by this problem? Who should care?
4. **What do we already know?** Best practices, literature review of prior research.
5. **Tool.** What is your proposed policy solution? Why this recommendation?
6. **Implementation and evaluation.** How will you do this, and how will you know it has worked?
7. **Critique of your solution.** No solution is without its disadvantages/trade-offs or concerns raised by a sensitivity analysis of key assumptions. Discuss these.

Grading: This activity is worth 10% of your overall grade. The break-down for the grading of the briefing will be as follows, out of 100 points:

Non-verbal	Excellent 15 pts	Good 12 pts	Satisfactory 9 pts	Poor 6 pts	No points
Eye contact, body language, use of visual aids & poise	No room for improvement	Some room for improvement	Needs improvement	Needs much improvement	Needs major improvement
Verbal	Excellent 20 pts	Good 17 pts	Satisfactory 13 pts	Poor 9 pts	No points
Articulate; proper volume; steady rate; enthusiasm; confidence; practiced	No room for improvement	Some room for improvement	Needs improvement	Needs much improvement	Needs major improvement
Timing	Excellent 15 pts				No points
Complete presentation on time	Completes briefing on time				Does not complete briefing on time
Content	Excellent 40 pts	Good 33 pts	Satisfactory 25 pts	Poor 17 pts	No points
Institution, Issue, Stakeholders, Background, Tool, Implementation, Limitations	Meets all content requirements with no room for improvement	Meets most all content requirements with some room for improvement	Does not meet a few of the requirements and needs much improvement	Does not meet a many of the requirements and needs major improvement	Does not meet any of the requirements and needs major improvement
Q&A	Excellent 10 pts		Average 5 pts		No points
Demonstrates a comprehension of project	Engages with audience in open discussion		Has difficulty completing answers		Does answer questions