

AGEC 4603/5603: Food Economics and Health
Spring 2021

Time and Place: T Th 11:00 am-12:15 pm

Location: Gearhart 0026

Instructor Information

Instructor

Di Fang

Email

difang@uark.edu

Office Location & Hours

Appointment only

General Information

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the concepts of food, nutrition, and health as well as the economic and statistical tools we can apply to study issues in food, nutrition, and health. In part one, we will focus on food policy, US food system, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and the connection between food, nutrition, and poverty. The section will provide an overview of the roles and interests of federal agencies, private-sector firms, and the media relevant to U.S. food and policy. In the second part, we will go over basic economic and marketing theories that can be applied to study the issues in food and health. Topics include supply and demand of food, food production function, adverse selection and moral hazard, and cost-benefit analysis. This section is designed to introduce the analytic tools commonly employed in the study of the economics of food and health. A third section will cover the issues in health economics including the US health care system, Medicare and Medicaid, demand and supply of health insurance, and comparing international perspectives on health policies and programs used to support global nutrition, health promotion, and wellness goals. The last section offers perspectives beyond the scope of food, nutrition, and health in the US and discusses the broader impact of food, nutrition, and health on social welfare, gender inequity, education, and poverty worldwide.

Class participation is crucial. Every student will have an opportunity to lead a class discussion on a topic of his/her choice. Class discussions will explore the connections among national, state and local food and nutrition policies, the economic impact of US healthcare system, nutrition and health claims, food insecurity and food desert, and food advocacy and activism to promote healthy food environments. Students are expected to participate in the discussion that generates critical thinking and (friendly) scholarly debates.

This course is offered together with the graduate course AGECE 5603. Graduate students are required to do a separate term paper on top of class requirements listed below.

Prerequisite: AGECE 1103 (or ECON 2023) and AGECE 2403 (or WCOB 1033, or STAT 2303, or MATH 2043, or MATH 3083 or MATH 3013). Students are expected to be able to perform basic arithmetic, algebra, and geometry.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will learn to:

1. identify the economic, political, social and cultural factors that influence U.S. food and nutrition policies and impact national food systems.
2. describe major processes and players involved in U.S. food policy development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

3. compare and contrast the federal food and nutrition programs administered by USDA.
4. apply economic, statistical, and marketing tools to analyze the US healthcare and food industry.
5. understand various issues present in the current US healthcare system and worldwide.
6. develop critical thinking regarding systematic differences in the healthcare marketing worldwide.
7. understand the importance of sustainable food marketing on global poverty.

COVID Class Attendance:

Due to the special circumstances caused by COVID-19 in Spring 2021. In-person attendance will be on a rotating schedule. That is, an attendance schedule will be sent out ahead of class each week. Only students that are scheduled to attend will be permitted into the classroom. However, in-person attendance is optional per the instructor's discretion. Each student will be given a seat assignment and can only sit in the assigned space, for contact-tracing purposes. **Masks are required at all times during the class.** Please keep your distance and raise your hand when you have a question. If you are sick on the day of attendance or suspect that you have been exposed prior to class, please contact me immediately and **do not** come to class unless being instructed so.

If you wish to only take the course remotely due to COVID-related underlying health issues, you can make a request through the provost office. The link is below. You can also contact the instructor for remote-only permission. Students wish to attend remotely will attend via zoom synchronously.

<https://cea.uark.edu/resources/covid-19/index.php>

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All the reading materials, including book chapters and papers, will be posted on Blackboard. However, below is the list of books that we will read chapters from.

Recommended textbooks (optional)

1. Neff R, ed. *Introduction to the Food System. Public Health, Environment, and Equity*. The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, Wiley & Sons, 2014.
2. Grossman, Michael. *Determinants of health: An economic perspective*. Columbia University Press, 2017. AVAILABLE, RA418 .G767 2017, Main Library. eBook: Full Text online at UARK library.
3. *Food Policy in the United States: An Introduction*. 2018. Second Edition from Routledge/Earthscan. Author: Parke Wilde. ISBN: 9781138203983. E-version on UARK library.

Fun Reading:

- Banerjee, Abhijit V., and Esther Duflo (2011). Poor economics: A radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty. Public Affairs.
- Kristof, N. D., & WuDunn, S. (2010). *Half the sky: Turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide*. Vintage Books USA.

Supplemental required readings will be provided to enrolled students.

Grading

According to the UA instructions for reporting final grades, they generally will reflect the following:

- A – Outstanding achievement (90% and above)
- B – Good achievement (80% - 89.99%)
- C – Average achievement (70% - 79.99%)
- D – Poor, but passing work (60% - 69.99%)
- F – Failure, given for unsatisfactory work (any grade below 60%)

Grading Guidelines for Undergraduate Students:

	%
Class Discussion	30
Midterm	15
Final Exam	15
Homework	40
Total	100

Assignments and Exams

Class Participation:

Each student/team is expected to lead a class discussion. The person/team in charge will be assigned a paper to read and critique. He/she is expected to lead a class discussion for approximately 45 minutes including a 10-minute overview of the paper. I will evaluate his/her performance based on the relatedness to class materials, critical thinking, and the ability to generate meaningful class discussion.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester and will be unannounced. Quizzes are only available to students in attendance on the day of the quiz. Quiz questions will be based on text, class material, and assigned readings.

Exams:

Make up exams will not be permitted without prior arrangement due to an excused absence.

Additional Information and Resources

Devices Policy:

Please turn off or silence devices during class. Let us do our best not to let the notifications on our devices become a distraction for us in class.

Disabilities:

If you need to request reasonable accommodations for this class due to a disability, you must first register with the Center for Educational Access (CEA). The CEA will notify the instructor, but the student still has an obligation to meet with the instructor to plan the procedures required for adequate accommodation.

Academic Dishonesty:

"Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/> Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor."

Inclement Weather:

If the University is open, we will have class. As the instructor, I reserve the right to cancel class due to inclement weather. Students will be notified by email and Blackboard if this is the case. Please use your best judgment before getting on the road. See UA Inclement Weather Policy at <http://emergency.uark.edu/inclement-weather/index.php>

Emergency Procedures:

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at <http://emergency.uark.edu>

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

If you hear shots or see weapons:

1. If you are outside and hear gunshots immediately seek shelter in another building or escape to a safe area away from the sounds of the gunshots. Call 911 immediately.
2. Trust your instincts! Lock the doors; cover door windows if possible. Set your cell phone on vibrate or silent.
3. If you are present where a shooter is active:
 - Avoid: Leave the area immediately. If necessary, break windows or glass to get out of the area. Run in the opposite direction of the disturbance or shots, cover your head with books or other items for protection. DO NOT stop running until you are in a safe area. If police officers are in the area, listen and comply with all of their commands. Raise your hands or keep them in plain sight so you are not perceived as a threat to the police.
 - Deny: If you choose to stay in your room. Do not leave until instructed to do so by a police officer. LOCK YOUR DOOR! Stay away from and below any window. Position furniture or other items in front of the door. Turn off the lights and call 911.
 - Defend: If the first two options do not work, defend yourself and those around you. Utilize any objects available to you to distract or interrupt the actions of the shooter.
4. Stay low to the ground and away from windows and doors.
5. Remain in a safe location until you receive instructions from police.
6. As soon as possible, call University Police at 575-2222 or dial 911
7. Give the police dispatcher as many details as possible about your location, the location of the individual with the weapon, or the location of the gunshots.

8. Include the number of persons involved, description of armed subject(s), weapons displayed, locations of victims, direction of travel, threats made, etc.
9. Stay calm.

Lauren's Promise

I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22, 2018 by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah campus. We must all take action to ensure that this never happens again.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911 or UARK police (479- 575-2222).

If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, please contact Pat Walker Health Center's Counseling & Psychological Services ([CAPS](#)) (or call 479-575-4000).

The University of Arkansas is committed to providing an environment for employees, students, and campus visitors that is free from illegal harassment based on age, race, gender (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, religion, marital or parental status, protected veteran status, military service, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity. The University will not tolerate and will take action against individuals who retaliate against individuals who report violations of this policy or participate in investigations related to such policy violations. (See full title IX policy at: <https://titleix.uark.edu/>)

Course Outline (*Dates/materials are subject to change*)

Date & Week	Topic
1	The Economics of Pandemics
2	Food Policy in the US
3	Food Insecurity and Nutrition Policy
4	Food Marketing
5	Economics in Food
6-7	Behavioral Economics in Health
8	Midterm
9	US Health and Policy
10	World Healthcare Systems
11	Health Insurance
12	Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection
13	Healthcare Reform
14	Risky Behaviors
15	Poverty
16	Final Exam