



Course title and number NFSC 204, Current Perspectives in Nutrition and Food Science
Term Fall 2018, 1 credit
Meeting times and
location TBD

Instructor Information

Name Dr. Steve Talcott
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Office hours 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F
Office location Cater-Mattill 136

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

No formal textbook will be required for this course. Reference materials will be uploaded to eCampus and/or a class website for you to view and/or download.

Course Description and Prerequisites

Current trends in the fields of nutrition and food science; critical review relevant literature in these fields ranging from popular press to peer-reviewed research; study of original research and market trends in understanding food, food processing, nutrients, health and diseases.

Prerequisite: Nutritional Sciences and Food Science and Technology majors only.

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

At the completion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of current trends in nutrition and food science from their review of both popular press and scientific literature. Students will also have a strong basis for critical thinking as demonstrated by technical writing and oral discussions. Students will also be expected to:

- **Identify** available resources of current food and nutritional science information
- **Identify** characteristics of credible, scientific information
- **Assess** quality of information from a variety of sources
- **Analyze and evaluate issues in nutrition and** food sciences by applying elements of reasoning and critical thinking
- **Demonstrate** effective written communication skills
- **Engage** in active discussions related to current issues in the food and nutritional sciences

These objectives will be met through a combination of activities:

Instructor Activities	Class Interaction, Activities & Resources
Learning modules Audio lectures/text script Weekly announcements Office hours and group activities Feedback on writing and discussions Discussion groups	Discussion Boards Web & Library Research Weekly Readings Short Written Assignments Peer Reviews Online Tutorials

Course Resources

Resources used in this course will be provided electronically through the TAMU eCampus (<http://ecampus.tamu.edu/>) system or you will identify your own resources (e.g. TAMU library research) to support your ideas in course activities and assignments. In addition, access to a writing reference, such as Lunsford's "The St. Martin's Handbook" or "Easy Writer" or Faigley's "The Little Penguin Handbook" is recommended.

Course Requirements

- **Minimum Technology Requirements.** You are required to have access to an up-to-date computer (e.g. Windows 8+ or Mac OS X 10.8+) with word processing software (i.e. Microsoft Word) to participate and complete course assignments. Speakers or headphones are required to listen to videos and audio files and a web-camera to participate in live video feeds with the instructor or for class projects. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to read pdf documents. *Recommended Browsers:* Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. A high speed Internet connection is required to effectively participate in this course.
- **Minimum Technical Skills.** Students should be familiar with the TAMU Gmail client, including how to compose emails and create email folders to save course emails from the instructor. Students should be able to download files from the course web site and upload files to eCampus and have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, including how to create new documents, edit and save documents, and copy and paste text from MS Word into eCampus text boxes.
- **Resources and support.** Resources available to support participation in this course include the Instructional Technology Services (<http://its.tamu.edu/>) which provides support for eCampus, including how to guides and videos for using eCampus tools, Help Desk Central (<http://hdc.tamu.edu/>) is a 24-hour call desk that can assist with computer and software issues, and Open Access Labs (<http://it.tamu.edu/>) provide computer access, including general and specialized workstations.

Course Structure

- **Style:** This course is a blend of asynchronous online and live-lecture/discussion format.
- **Course Content** will be frequently loaded to eCampus, and you are expected to keep up with all assigned readings and course assignments, both individual and group work.

- **Learning modules:** This course is organized into modules, as outlined in the course schedule, by its main topic and contains required videos, readings, discussion topics, forums, and assignments.
- **Participation:** Students should expect to spend at least 2 hours a week on various readings, assignments, discussions, and activities outside of class. To be a successful learner you should be self-motivated, self-disciplined, and be an active and willing participant in class activities and discussions.

Grading

Grades are based on a scale of 100 points and are distributed among assignments as follows:

Class Participation and Online Activities (5 @ 5 points) = 25 pts

Writing assignments (5 @ 15 points) = 75 pts

TOTAL 100

Letter Grade Points Performance

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F < 60

Academic Integrity

For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates

Week	Learning Module	Topics
1		Introductions: course syllabus and online resource tour
2	Module 1	Understanding the Bridge From Science Research to Science Communication: Identifying Credible Information
3-4	Module 2	Reading scientific literature: Popular media vs. scholarly sources. Skill-building: Strategies for reading and writing. Introduction to group discussions and to Writing
5-6	Module 3	Critical Thinking Concept: Elements of reasoning and application. Nutrition or Food Science Speaker #1 Skill-building: Strategies for writing paragraphs Week 5: Group discussions: Popular Press and Science Week 6: Writing Assignment 1 due
7-8	Module 4	Critical Thinking Concept: Identifying Problems and Relevant Information. Nutrition or Food Science Speaker #2 Skill building: Writing with clarity Week 7: Group discussions. Effective Communication Week 8: Writing Assignment 2 due

9		Spring Break
10-11	Module 5	Critical Thinking Concept: Assumptions and Inferences. Nutrition or Food Science Speaker #3 Week 10: Group discussions. Authority of Scientific Data Week 11: Writing Assignment 3 due
12-13	Module 6	Critical Thinking Concept: Uncertainty in Nutrition and Food Sciences. Nutrition or Food Science Speaker #4 Week 12: Group discussions. Peer-Reviewed Science Week 13: Writing Assignment 4 due
14-15	Module 7	Critical Thinking Concept: Point of View and Interpreting. Nutrition or Food Science Speaker #5. Week 14: Group discussions. Current Perspectives on Science Week 15: Writing Assignment 5 due

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines. All assignments have specific due dates, and there will be no make-up assignments or late work accepted unless a university-excused absence (see *section 7.1 of TAMU Student Rules Rule 7* (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>)) for what the University considers excused absences) that cover more than 50% of the period of time from the release of the learning module/assignment to the deadline can be utilized for the provision of make-up work or late submission. And, specific and original documentation for university-approved excuses is required.

Course Policies

While you are a student at Texas A&M University, you are expected to exhibit the characteristics of integrity in this academic setting, which includes being honest, trustworthy, respectful, fair, and responsible. Texas A&M University defines academic misconduct, or dishonesty, as: *“Misconduct in research or scholarship includes fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data. Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor*

request it, is sufficient grounds to initiate an academic dishonesty case. Academic dishonesty includes the commission of any of the following acts: cheating, fabrication, falsification, multiple submissions, and complicity.” (Source: Aggie Honor System Office.
<https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/RulesAndProcedures/HonorSystemRules.aspx>.

Plagiarism

The materials used in this course are not to be duplicated without permission. This includes all materials generated for this class, which include, but are not limited to, syllabi, handouts, Power Point outlines/slides, case studies, etc. You do not have the right to copy these materials unless expressly granted permission. Note: “Making copies” is not limited to making hard copies, but it also includes taking pictures of materials with your phone or other electronic device. As stated in the *Student Rules at Texas A&M University*: “*Student Rule 20.1.2.3.5: “The appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.”*”
(<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/RulesAndProcedures/HonorSystemRules.aspx#definitions>)

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