Seminar in Foods and Nutrition  
NUTR 600  
Spring 2017  

Instructor: Shirin Hooshmand, PhD  
Office: ENS 311  
Phone #: 594-6984  
Prerequisite: NUTR 301, NUTR 302/302L

Course Description:

The course consists of reading and analyses of basic and applied research in foods and nutrition.

Course Objectives:

• Students will develop enhanced critical thinking skills in the analysis and evaluation of foods and nutrition research.
• Students will gain a better understanding of historical and current research conducted in foods and nutrition.
• Students will practice critical evaluation of presentations by peers.

Readings: No textbook is required for the course. Selected publications will be assigned throughout the course.

Course Evaluation:

Performance in the course will be evaluated based on a variety of assignments/projects as well as attendance.

Attendance-15 (1 per day): MUST SIGN IN, NO EXCUSES ALLOWED!!!  
Points of Seminar Excellence-10 (5 points per item)  
Journal Club Article -10  
Seminar 1-30  
Seminar 2-30  
Critique skills-10  
Total=100

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5-92.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5-89.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5-82.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5-77.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5-72.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.5-69.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-67.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59.5-62.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 59.5</td>
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Points of Seminar Excellence: You may request as many points of excellence as you wish, but only the top 2 will count. Points of excellence are worth 0-5 points per item. You must request points of excellence during the classes in which they are done. Requests must be made in duplicate on supplied Points of Excellence slips, so that the student and instructor both have copies to verify the points awarded. Points of excellence are awarded for special insights or actions that add to the seminar(s) of that day. Items include but are not limited to the following: comments that add to the information presented by someone else, excellent questions to the presenter, a critique of a study that was missed by the presenter, seminar enhancements (refreshments, examples, etc.), and much, much more.
Journal Club Article: Each person will present summary of one article for journal club article to the class. Powerpoint presentation is optional! Begin the review by including pertinent journal/author info on one slide. On the next slide or two, provide background information summarized from the introduction. Next, provide a comprehensive summary of the methods, but be sure to be brief and use bullets instead of complete sentences. This shouldn’t take more than 2 or 3 slides. The following slide(s) should include the pertinent results. If you can obtain your article electronically, incorporate the actual tables and figures into your Powerpoint. In the discussion, provide the authors overall conclusions on 1 slide, state your own critique of the study, and discuss any practical applications. You are limited to a total of 7 slides with text and 3 table/figure slides. You will lose 1 point for each slide above the max. You must complete your review within 7 min. One point will be deducted for each minute over 7.

Seminars 1 and 2: Each student will give two seminars of 20 minutes each. The first seminar will pertain to historical accomplishments in foods and/or nutrition and the other will be on a current topic in foods and/or nutrition. Each seminar will address a specific issue and must be presented in as exhaustive of a manner as possible for a 20 minutes seminar. Dates for your seminars will be determined by the 2nd class meeting. One week before your seminar, you MUST provide a copy or link to a copy of a pertinent article to everyone in the class, so they can be familiar with the topic before your presentation. The seminars must be presented using Powerpoint. Do not simply provide a series of article critiques, but rather integrate research studies into a coherently outlined presentation that develops the topic in a logical manner. This format will likely require presentation of data from studies, but will not require extensive discussion of every detail of a study. Powerpoint slides should not be cluttered with information that is not needed, but rather simply points to guide the discussion. Points will be severely deducted for simply reading slides or notecards. DO NOT READ SLIDES OR NOTECARDS!!! At least 1 “Wow Slide” is required for each seminar. A “Wow Slide” will be a single slide or slide series that allows the audience to visually understand the concept being described and impresses them so much that say “WOW”. You might want to get very familiar with Powerpoint features early on so that you can construct the most impressive slide or slide series possible. Examples of “Wow Slides” might include one slide or a series of slides that visually demonstrates the process to produce or assess a food product or that depicts key processes involved in metabolism or the development of a chronic disease such as atherosclerosis. This slide or slide series will account for 20% of your grade for that seminar. If you are not finished within 20 min, 1 point will be deducted per min over 15.

Critique Skills: Seminar grades will be based on a composite of the instructor’s scores and the scores of classmates assigned to critique the seminar. Each student will be assigned to critique two seminars throughout the class. Each critique will be worth 5 points and graded by the instructor. The following criteria will be used by students for critiquing/grading seminars.

a) Style/Delivery (4 points): consider the presenter’s articulation, delivery style, ease for following presentation, etc.
b) Content (4 points): demonstrated high level of understanding information, provided most interesting insights, completeness of topic coverage, etc.
c) Visual Stimulation (4 points): consider slide format, color scheme, ease of reading, appropriate slide information, etc.
d) Other Qualities (4 points): consider your perception of the presenter’s preparation, ability to capture and hold the audience’s attention, etc.
e) Wow Slide (4 points): if you truly say “wow” to yourself, award 4 points. If it’s less impressive grade accordingly.

You may consider the following scoring rubric for assigning points. Half points are allowed.

0=The presenter should have never gotten out of bed today
1=It was barely apparent that the presenter was alive
2= Nice effort for what seems to be last-minute work
3=I was interested about 70% of the time
4=A captivating seminar, barely any improvement needed

Each of the above scores will be followed with a brief explanation that should be meant to help the presenter. You will submit your critiques during the class periods in which your critiques are assigned. The scores of the students’ critiques will be added to the scores of the instructor’s critique, which will be weighted for double points, to determine the total score out of 30. Critiques will be evaluated by the instructor on a scale of 0-5 based on the instructor’s agreement with the critique description and score using the following rubric:

0=Totally disagree, 1= Agree 20%, 2=Agree 40%, 3=Agree 60%, 4=Agree 80%, 5=Agree almost 100%