

## Current Issues in Nutritional Science W394 Summer 2020 Course Syllabus

### Course Instructor

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### Communication Plan and Contacts

Canvas Support: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/help>  
Assistant Director of Online MSNS Program: [Natalie.Poulos@utexas.edu](mailto:Natalie.Poulos@utexas.edu)

### Course Description

NTR W394 – Current Issues in Nutritional Science  
Unique Number 85135  
3 Credit Hours

**Summary:** In this course we will dig deeper into a few areas of nutrition that offer exciting possibilities through research or are important to the public. We will be exploring these areas using a method of evidence-based analysis (©*Evidence Analysis Manual* Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). You will employ the knowledge and skills you have been developing throughout the program.

### Course Format

This course will be taught entirely online through Canvas. There will be no class meetings on campus. There will be 12 modules and an

evaluation project over the course of 7 weeks. See the course calendar for more details.

**Navigation Instructions:** When you log into Canvas, you will arrive at your Canvas dashboard. Select the relevant course tile to access the course. Use the course menu on the left side of your screen to navigate within the course. Please make sure to read the brief descriptions on each page that help guide you through the content. It is my way of talking to you on a moment-to-moment basis. At times, these blurbs provide important content, so, be sure to read them!

### **Required Course Materials**

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook.

Additional assigned readings and articles will be posted on Canvas.

### **Technology Requirements**

Access to high-speed internet

Basic computer skills

Ability to communicate via Internet tools such as chat, email

Computer with speakers or headphones

Supported web browser: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, or Chrome

Download and installation of BigBlueButton: any other plugins

Computer software & hardware: The primary software requirement for accessing course materials in Microsoft Office 2010, or later. (NOTE: do not submit documents as zip files or files that are not compatible with Microsoft Office 2010 or later, e.g. Google docs, etc., unless otherwise specified.)

## Grading Policy

Your semester grade will be based on a combination of your performance in Mini-module Assessments, Key Topic Discussions, Peer Reviewed Responses and Module Projects. Final grades will be based on students earning the following points out of a possible 1200:

Required Assignments	Contribution to Course Grade
Discussions	10 @ 10 points = 100 points
Peer Reviewed Responses	10 @ 15 points = 150 points
Mini-module Assessments	5 @ 20 points = 100 points
Module Projects	6 @ 100 points = 600 points
Final Evidence Analysis	1 @ 250 points = 250 points
Total	1200 points

## Course Schedule

All dates and times are in Central Daylight Time (CDT). Two modules will be available at the beginning of each week (Sunday, 12:00 a.m.) Note that assignments from the first module must be completed by mid-week (Wednesday, 11:59 p.m.) and assignments from the second module must be completed by the end of the week (Saturday, 11:59 p.m.). Assignments may be completed before the due dates.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Modules</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
1. June 7 - June 1 <u>3</u>	1 & 2	Module 1: throughout week Module 2: Sat 11:59 pm 6/13
2. June 14 - June 20	3 & 4	Module 3: throughout week Module 4: Sat 11:59 pm 6/20
3. June 21 – June 27	5 & 6	Module 5: throughout week Module 6: Sat 11:59 pm 6/27
4. June 28 – July 4	7 & 8	Module 7: throughout the week Module 8: Sat 11:59 pm 7/04
5. July 5 – July 11	9 & 10	Module 9: throughout the week Module 10: Sat 11:59 pm 7/11
6. July 12 – July 18	11 & 12	Module 11: throughout the week Module 12: Sat 11:59 pm 7/18
7. July 19 - July 26	Final Evidence Analysis: Sat 11:59 pm 7/26	

### **Course Activities**

Each week of the course will examine a different current issue area. The first module of the week is an exploration of the topic and the second module is the module project. In the module project you will work in teams to conduct an evidence evaluation to answer a PICO\*-based research question your group has agreed upon. Below are the activities and assessments you will encounter as you work your way through the course.

## **\*PICO**

- **P--Populations/People/Patient/Problem**
- **I - Intervention(s)**
- **C - Comparison**
- **O- Outcome**

**Read/Watch/Explore/Listen:** Didactic content activities in which you interact with key concepts presented in engaging video and web-based formats.

**Discussions:** In each module at the beginning of the week (each odd-numbered module) we will explore a current issue area. Discussions at the end of some of the lessons are designed to allow you to comment on the material and your peers' entries. Each discussion is worth **10 pts for a total of 100 points toward the course grade.**

**Peer-reviewed Responses (PRR):** In the PRRs you are challenged to provide a more structured and supported response to the prompt given, based on the associated module lesson. You will submit your response by the due date and then be assigned three of your peers' responses to grade anonymously. Each PRR is worth **15 pts for a total of 150 points toward your course grade.**

**Mini-module Assessments (MMA):** MMAs are brief assignments that either demonstrate your knowledge and/or ability or are building blocks to the module project in the ensuing module. Each MMA counts for **20 points, for a total of 100 pts toward your course grade.**

**Module Projects (MP):** In the second module each week (even-numbered modules), you will have a module project. Based on the current issue area presented in the first module of the week, your team will decide on a PICO-based research question and conduct an evidence analysis. These MPs are designed to allow you to practice developing evidence-based conclusions about current research.

**Final Evidence Analysis (FEA):** The FEA, worth 250 points, will be an evidence analysis that your team conducts on a topic of the team's

choosing. It might be a different question on a topic that was covered in the previous modules or a different area of interest. there will be a mini-literature review and broader look at the literature required, otherwise, it will follow the MPs you have completed throughout the course.

## **Course Policies**

**Students' Responsibilities:** As a graduate student in this course, you are responsible for being curious, striving to stretch your brain, and, of course, learning all of the course material specified in the syllabus. You may be required to learn some of the course material independently through readings specified in the study guide and lecture recordings on Canvas. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time and asking questions in advance if you don't understand an aspect of an assignment.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments will generally not be accepted. In case of exceptional circumstances, write me an email and we can talk in general, even in extreme circumstances, 10 points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

### **DROP/ADD DEADLINES:**

June 5 Last day of official add/drop period for the summer session

June 9 Last day to drop for possible refund

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:** Anyone feeling that a dispute exists after the grading of an exam or assignment may submit a written grievance. The grievance should identify the item in dispute and provide arguments supporting the student's position. Grievances must be submitted within two class periods following the return of the exam or quiz. Attach your entire exam or quiz to the grievance.

**UT AUSTIN SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:** The University expects every student to maintain a high standard of individual integrity. Scholastic dishonesty is a serious offense that includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, or other classwork, plagiarism (the appropriation of another's work, and the unauthorized incorporation of that work in one's own work), and collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing college work offered for credit). In cases of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member responsible for the course will initiate disciplinary proceedings against the student.

**ADA POLICY STATEMENT:** The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101, *et seq.*) 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 the Department of Disability Services. Their Phone number is (210) 458-4157. Website: <http://usta.edu/disability/>

### **COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION EXPECTATIONS:**

Use proper grammar and syntax when posting messages.

Interact appropriately and respectfully with instructors and your fellow class members.

Respond in an appropriate timeframe (usually 24 hours) to emails and assessments (usually 48 hours).

**NETIQUETTE (INTERNET ETIQUETTE):** There is an informal code of conduct that most people follow on the internet. Usually people who break the code become the victims of flame emails. Netiquette

included not sending email or messages in ALL CAPS or with too many exclamation points or asking repetitive questions in forums that have FAQs posted. Sending spam is also a violation of netiquette. You are not legally obligated to follow proper netiquette, but you will have an easier time communicating with others over the internet, if you do.

## **TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

Become familiar with Canvas technology.

Make sure you know your UT Austin Library ID and passphrase.

Regularly check the Canvas course for announcements and updates.

Log into your Canvas course every day.

Complete all required assignments and quizzes by due dates.

Participate in all required blog posts. Online learning is not solitary learning: you must interact with your classmates in the various blog posts.

Take responsibility for your own learning. Take the course and yourself seriously.

Be aware of the amount of class work you need to accomplish. Eliminating on-campus meetings does NOT mean less work. Usually, eight hours of work outside of class are required each week in order to succeed in this course.

Be polite and respectful in all communications with the instructor and other members of the class.



## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – YOUR STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

You will ensure your full name and course number and section are listed on the subject line of the email (e.g., John Doe BIO 1033.002) so I know in which course/section you are registered.

You will check your email account regularly.

You will not fall behind the syllabus/schedule.

You will check announcements.

You will not consistently wait until the last minute to take assessments or submit assignments.

While you MAY be given a grace period to allow for technical problems, you MUST report problems immediately to me and to IT@UT.

**COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE:** Copying, displaying, and distributing copyrighted work may infringe the owner's copyright. The University of Texas System's policy statement on Fair Use of Copyrighted Materials can help you determine whether your use of a copyrighted work may be an infringement. Any use of computer or duplication facilities by students, faculty, or staff, for infringing use of copyrighted works is subject of appropriate disciplinary action as well as those civil remedies and criminal penalties provided by federal law.

Copyright law applies to the Internet, which contains a mixture of copyrighted and non-copyrighted materials. An item does not have to display a statement of copyright to be copyrighted it is assumed that an item is copyrighted until otherwise determined. For more information

on copyright, see the University of Texas System Office of General counsel website.

**THE TEACH ACT:** Copyright law provides educators with a separate set of rights, in addition to fair use, to display (show) and perform (show or play) others' works in the classroom (not online). These rights are in Section 110(1) of the Copyright Act and apply to any work, regardless of the medium.

**CONDUCT:** "Courtesy, politeness, manners, and civility are all, in essence, forms of awareness. Being civil means being constantly aware of others and weaving restraint, respect, and consideration on into the very fabric of this awareness. Civility is a form of goodness; it is gracious goodness. But it is not just an attitude of benevolent and thoughtful relation to other individuals; it also entails an active interest in the well-being of our communities and even a concern for the health of the planet on which we live."

P.M. Forni - Choosing Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct

**PRIVACY:** Canvas software automatically stores course access records, quiz scores, email postings, discussions postings, and chat room conversations. This is one more reason to make sure that your communications adhere to the netiquette policy.

**ALTERNATE COMMUNICATION:** In the event that a Canvas problem makes it impossible to use the course communication tools for more than 24 hours, the instructor will communicate with class members through email.

**CHANGES:** The syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is your responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes/corrections to the

course materials, assignment dates, or other updates will be posted ahead of time in the course Announcements tool. It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for updates.

Please refer to the Canvas Orientation to the MSNS Program “More Resources: MSNS Program Information” page for additional course policies including grading structure, accommodations, academic integrity, religious holidays, and drop dates.

### **Emergency Procedures when on Campus**

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of fCampus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alar activation or announcement requires exiting an assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Use the Behavior concerns Advice Line (BCAL) hotline to report any behavior or incident that is suspicious or disturbing: 512-232-5050

Link to information regarding evacuation routs and emergency procedures can be found at [utexas.edu/emergency](http://utexas.edu/emergency).

## **Student Resources**

*Note: The following are all links to external sites.*

Campus safety and Security: <http://operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center: <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

Forty Acres Pharmacy: <http://www.fortyacrespharmacy.com/>

University Health Services: <https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu>

University of Texas Police Department: <http://policeutexas.edu/>

UT Recreational Sports: <https://www.utrecsports.org/>