A. Course Description

This one-credit course provides graduate students with the opportunity to prepare for and to meet with legislative staff, executive branch personnel, directors of government agencies and staff of public interest and industry groups to obtain current policy information on food, nutrition, and related-health issues. By conferring with key personnel in small interactive groups, students will be able to ask pertinent, in-depth questions and to make contacts to build future working relationships. This course is conducted through lecture, discussion, and small group panels.

Sessions
1. Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 9-9:50am, 2304 McG-G
2. Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 9-9:50am, 2304 McG-G [This may be moved to a week earlier or later depending on Dr Ng’s travels]
3. Monday, January 8 through Wednesday, January 10, 2018
   Meeting places in Washington, DC as indicated on DC Agenda (to be distributed in Nov 2017)

B. Objectives of the Course

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Discuss current national issues in food, nutrition, and health from various political, administrative and advocacy perspectives.
2. Discuss roles of legislative, executive, and public interest groups in developing and implementing food, nutrition, and health programs and services.
3. Discuss legislative and regulatory processes and how to be an effective advocate for nutrition and health at the state and national level.
4. Become familiar with career and professional opportunities on the national and international scene.
5. Become familiar with available resources for consultation, training, funding, and nutrition education materials from federal/national agencies.

Objectives of the course are mapped to the following competencies:
- 2017 ACEND competency: Demonstrate advocacy on local, state or national legislative and regulatory issues or policies impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.
- 2016 CEPH competency: Practice in compliance with current federal regulations and state statutes and rules related to public health nutrition programs.

C. Course Requirements

1. Contributions to class blog:
   - First blog period
     - Entry/submission based on assigned topic – due by Sept 29th, 2017 (Fri) 11:59PM
Discussions & comments on assigned topics – due by Oct 13\textsuperscript{th}, 2017 (Fri)
- Discussions & comments on other topics – due by Oct 13\textsuperscript{th}, 2017 (Fri)
- Second blog period
- Entry/submission based on assigned topic – due by Nov 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2017 (Fri) 11:59PM
- Discussions & comments on assigned topics – due by Nov 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2017 (Fri)
- Discussions & comments on other topics – due by Nov 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2017 (Fri)
- Reflections from DC trip – due by Jan 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2018 (Mon) 11:59PM ET

2. Attendance and active participation in Washington DC from Jan 8-10, 2018 (Mon-Wed).
- Course evaluation on Qualtrics due by Jan 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2018 (Fri) 11:59PM ET

3. Late policy: deduct 5 pts if one day late; after that, deduct 5 pts for each 5 days late.

C1. Additional information on the Nutrition Policy class blog

Students will be contributors to a class blog via https://nutr735.web.unc.edu (access via onyen) called Nutrition Policy covering different topics, starting from our first meeting on Sept 6, 2017 through Jan 2018. There will be two periods of blogging & discussion prior to the DC trip, and students are encouraged to continue blogging throughout and after the DC trip and beyond the course requirements.

The topics, readings and discussion questions for the first blog period will be posted under Hot Topics by Dr Ng no later than Sept 10\textsuperscript{th}, 2017. Each student will be grouped with 5-7 other students to read, learn and blog about a specific topic based on the resources and discussion questions provided. Please comment on the entries made of at least one other student in your own topic/group. Each student will also be assigned to comment and jump into the discussion of another topic/group, and are welcome to jump into the discussions of topics not assigned to them. In other words, for each blog period each student should complete at least 1 blog entry in their assigned topic/group, at least 1 comment on the blog entry of someone in their assigned topic/group, and at least 1 comment on the blog entry of someone in a different topic/group (also pre-assigned).

Blog entries should be 500-750 words long, include hyperlinks/citations to other pertinent resources, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make their point. Blog entries should not simply summarize or reiterate what you read, but should be a \textit{syntheses or reflection of what you learned, agreed or disagreed with}. Be creative and have fun, but also craft your argument with a critical eye/careful thought.

Comments should provide thoughtful responses to the points made by the contributing blogger and should be 150-300 words long. Feel free to continue discussion threads as well, and look up additional resources under Good Reads. Please be respectful and professional in your language and tone, and recognize that it is important to agree to disagree. It is also recommended that you do not put any personal information including your contact information on the class blog.

The topics, readings and discussion questions for the second blog period will be posted by Dr Ng no later than Oct 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2017. Topics we will cover this year will very likely include:

- Nutrition Labeling Update
  - Nutrition Facts Panel
  - Menu Labeling
  - Nutrition and Health Claims
  - Smart Labels

- Nutrition Education and Communications to Americans
  - Dietary Guidelines for Americans
  - MyPlate
  - Consumers’ (mis)perceptions and (mis)understanding of nutrition information
• International Policies and Programs to Address Global Nutrition Issues
  o Malnutrition and food insecurity
  o Sustainable Development Goals (progress and problems)
  o Examples of nutrition policies from around the world

• Optimizing Food Security, Nutrition Education and a Healthy Diet for American Children and Teens
  o WIC
  o Reauthorization of Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA)
  o School meal programs

• Interactions between Food Production and Consumption to Promote a Healthy and Sustainable Food System
  o Farming landscape (labor force, infrastructure, supply chain issues)
  o Creative approached to sustainable agriculture (including local DC examples)
  o GMOs

• 2018-2020 U.S. Farm Bill
  o Components of Farm Bill
  o Proposed/discussed changes to SNAP funding, eligibility and state disbursement
  o Other changes to crop insurance and trade policies that might impact the food system, nutrition and health

• Public Health Policy and Programs to Address Maternal and Child Health, Prevent Obesity and Chronic Diseases, and Support Healthy Aging
  o Public Health Prevention Fund
  o Professional organizations’ role
  o Private-Public Partnerships

• Update on Health Care Reform
  o General updates
  o Impacts on the health profession

It is highly recommended that you review class presentation materials and the readings and blogs from your classmates during the Thanksgiving or Christmas- New Year’s breaks in order to refresh yourself prior to your trip to DC.

During or after the DC trip (by Jan 15th, 2018), each student is expected to post a blog entry (500-750 words) reflecting upon your experience. This can include what you learned, skills or insights into specific topics covered or areas in which you have further interest or need and want to do additional explorations. Don’t forget to share pictures as well!

C2. Additional information for Trip to Washington, DC

1. Dates: January 8, 8:30am to January 10, 1pm. Plan to arrive in DC by Sunday evening, Jan 7, 2018.
2. Lodging: You may stay over at friends/relatives but make sure to be at the assigned meeting venues on time. If you are staying in a hotel, somewhere around Dupont Circle, Farragut North or West (DC downtown) will place you closer to the meeting locations. Another option is to share an apartment together using sites like AirBnB.com or HomeAway.com.
3. Transportation: Please determine on your own how you will travel to Washington DC. It is recommended that you carpool with classmates (3-4 per car) to minimize cost.
4. Budgeting:
a. Hotel room ~$240/night. If shared by 4 people, 3 nights, total = $180/person
b. 6 meals - average $15 each meal = $90/person
c. Metro ticket - $20/person
d. Parking - $33/day. If 4 people carpooling, it will be $33/person
5. Dress: You may be doing a great deal of walking, so bring comfortable shoes. Dress should be professional, but comfortable. Please keep in mind that there might be snow or ice in January.
6. Contact information: Make sure to exchange cellphone numbers with those you are traveling or staying with. Shu Wen can be reached at 919-491-8881.
7. Agenda. A draft will be posted on the blog under DC Sessions, and will be finalized by Dec 20, 2017.
8. Options of places to go (if you have time / opt to extend your stay):
   a. United States Capitol
   b. United States Botanical Gardens (free admission, open 10am-5pm daily)
   c. US Supreme Court (open 9am - 4:30pm, M-F)
   d. Library of Congress (see www.loc.gov/visit/hours.html)
   e. The Mall, Washington Monument and various museums around it http://www.nps.gov/NAMA/ and http://www.si.edu/
   f. Tidal Basin and various monuments around it
   g. National Building Museum
   h. National Portrait Gallery and the American Art Museum

C3. Additional information for the Course Evaluation (beyond the SPH course eval from Fall 2017)
There will be a course evaluation via Qualtrics that will be sent by Jan 12th. Please complete this by Jan 19th, 2018.

D. Course Grading

You will be graded for each assignment based on the matrix below. Note that the late policy (deduct 5pts from grade if one day late; after that deduct 5pts for each 5 days paper is late) applies to each assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment (pts)</th>
<th>Dimensions (pts allocated)</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 1</td>
<td>□ Clear, concise statement and synthesis of the issue and your viewpoint given the discussion questions provided (10 pts)</td>
<td>Sept 29, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry/submission based on assigned topic (25 pts)</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of other stakeholders’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 1</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 13, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/comments on assigned topic (15 pts)</td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of others’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 1</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 13, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/comments on another topic (15 pts)</td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of others’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 2</td>
<td>□ Clear, concise statement and synthesis of the issue and your viewpoint given the discussion questions provided (10 pts)</td>
<td>Nov 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry/submission based on assigned topic (25 pts)</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of other stakeholders’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 2</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td>Nov 17, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/comments on assigned topic (15 pts)</td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of others’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog period 2</td>
<td>□ Includes appropriate use of pertinent resources, scientific literature, and graphics/photos/charts/cartoons to make your points (10 pts)</td>
<td>Nov 17, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions/comments on another topic (15 pts)</td>
<td>□ Sensitivity/awareness of others’ interest, positions (5 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment (pts)</td>
<td>Dimensions (pts allocated)</td>
<td>Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington DC seminars (60 pts)</td>
<td>□ Timeliness to events (20 pts)</td>
<td>Jan 8-10, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Engaged in seminars based on questions and participation with panels (40 pts)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Reflections (20 pts)</td>
<td>20 pts so long as this is done by January 15, 2018</td>
<td>Jan 15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Evaluation (10 pts)</td>
<td>10 pts so long as this is done by January 19, 2018</td>
<td>Jan 19, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Possible Base points (200 pts)</td>
<td>H : ≥ 190 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H- : 175 - 189 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P+ : 160 - 174 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P  : 150 - 159 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P- : 140 - 149 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L  : &lt; 140 pts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNC Honor Code**

The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your reward is in the practice of these principles. Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work. If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (966 4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (966 4042), or read “The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance” (http://instrument.unc.edu).