

## NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES SEMINAR (HUN 6938 Section 2206)

### Course Syllabus

Spring 2025 (1 credit)

### THEME: Hot Topics in Human Nutrition

**Coordinator:** Wendy J. Dahl PhD RD FDC  
**Office:** Room 207, FSHN Building  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment by Zoom  
**Phone:** 352 294 3707 (office)  
**e-mail:** [wdahl@ufl.edu](mailto:wdahl@ufl.edu)

**Class time:** Thursday, 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.      **Class Location:** G001 MCCD/Zoom

### Course Description

Presentation of reports on research in nutrition. Prerequisite: Permission of Coordinator.

### Additional Course Information

The primary function of the seminar course is to provide students with the opportunity to gain experience in discourse of nutritional and biomedical research. Students will have the opportunity to communicate their own research and/or review peer-reviewed scientific research. Highly regarded visiting speakers will be scheduled to enrich student and faculty experience.

### Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- use critical thinking to evaluate nutritional sciences research
- develop skills in scientific communication and discourse
- give and receive constructive feedback

### Attendance and Expectations for Discussion

Students are expected to attend in-person all scheduled seminar sessions, arrive on time, and be present for the entire class. One unexcused absence per term is allowed. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> Any petition to be excused from seminar attendance for reasons other than those listed above must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator and, in some cases, by the Graduate Committee. Students are expected to show courtesy to their classmates, seminar attendees, and guest speakers by silencing cell phones before the seminar begins and refraining from engaging in personal laptop/cell phone use and conversations during seminar presentations and discussions. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

All FSHN graduate students are required to attend seminar each term. Food Science (FS) students normally attend FS seminars, and HUN students attend Nutritional Sciences seminars. If there are class conflicts, students may attend the alternate seminar series. Students are expected to participate in the discussions by posing thoughtful questions to seminar presenters and to provide fellow students with written evaluations of their presentations.

### Student Evaluation

Seminar grades are based on faculty evaluations and the average of the grades from the departmental evaluation form (see below). All faculty and peer evaluation comments will be posted on Canvas, usually within one week after the seminar. Attendance is recorded each week. If absent from a seminar, a petition for an excused absence may be made to the coordinator. If there is a conflict and more than one absence

occurs, the student must submit a petition for an excused absence to the Chair of the FSHN Graduate Committee. Students who have more than three unexcused absences over the course of their matriculation will be referred to their Supervisory Committees for appropriate action, and the final seminar grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

### **Seminar Presentations**

M.S. thesis degree students must present one **in-person** 20-minute seminar plus a 5-minute discussion on their research work. M.S. non-thesis degree Nutritional Science students must present a 30-minute seminar plus a 5-minute discussion on the theme topic for the semester. This is typically given in the last semester prior to graduation.

Except for the final (dissertation) seminar, Ph.D. students must present, in a colloquium format, a 30- to 35-minute seminar on a theme topic that is assigned at the beginning of the semester. This presentation should be on one or two prominent original research papers from the literature. Alternatively, the student may elect to make a one-time presentation of their doctoral dissertation proposal in lieu of a theme seminar that year. The final seminar of the student's program must be an **in-person** 40- to 45-minute presentation of the completed dissertation research and typically occurs in their final semester prior to graduation.

Remote (by Zoom or otherwise) final M.S. thesis and Ph.D. dissertation seminar presentations may be approved in exceptional circumstances, such as pressing medical necessity with documentation from the medical provider (e.g., late-stage, high-risk pregnancy, out-of-state cancer treatment, etc.) or international visa restrictions (e.g., a foreign student is unable to return to the US to present their final seminar due to visa delay or denial). Requests for remote final seminar presentations based on student preference, convenience, or cost of travel within the US will not be considered.

### **Grades and Grade Points**

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A	70-74 = C
85-89 = B+	65-69 = D+
80-84 = B	60-64 = D
75-79 = C+	< 60 = E

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Online Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email, they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received

unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Required and Recommended Textbooks**

There are no required textbooks for this course.

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/> It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

### **Campus Helping Resources**

#### Health and Wellness

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

#### Academic Resources

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Student Complaints On-Campus:* [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

*On-Line Students Complaints:* [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

## **FSHN Department Graduate Student Seminar Procedures**

Students who plan to give a seminar must contact the Seminar Coordinator by midterm of the semester prior to the semester of presentation. The student should define whether the seminar will be the final research seminar (thesis M.S. or Ph.D.) or a theme seminar (non-thesis M.S. and Ph.D.), and request dates for the presentation. Students must obtain permission from their Major Professor to schedule their final (research) seminar. Note: Students with special circumstances or conflicts, if arranged prior to the coordinator finalizing the seminar schedule, may receive a grade of Incomplete.

Ph.D. students who cancel their final research seminar will be required to give a theme seminar in its place as defined in the FSHN Department Graduate Student Handbook. The student will then be required to reschedule his/her final research seminar for a subsequent semester.

An M.S. student who wishes to cancel the final research seminar after an agreed-upon date in the seminar schedule will be required to either give a theme seminar or an update of their research. The student must schedule a final thesis research seminar for a subsequent semester.

***\*Theme seminar papers must be pre-approved by the Seminar Coordinator.***

### **Further Information:**

#### **Abstract**

Abstracts should be circulated one week in advance of the scheduled presentation. Please email your abstract in Word format to Wendy Dahl at [wdahl@ufl.edu](mailto:wdahl@ufl.edu) to be sent out as an email announcement. Please ask your major professor to read over the abstract and revise it before submitting it to the advising office. The abstract submission counts for 10% of your seminar grade.

#### **Theme Article**

At least 10 days prior to your presentation date, upload the theme article in PDF on Canvas.

#### **Visuals**

PowerPoint is the preferred method for presentations. Carefully proof your slides for readability, color, etc. Ask a colleague or your advisor to review the slides. It is imperative that you arrive at the seminar room well in advance of the start time to make sure that everything is in working order.

#### **Evaluation**

The forms are below for your review. Peer and faculty evaluations will be conducted through Qualtrics.

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (HUN 6938) GRADING SHEET: THEME PRESENTATION**

**SPEAKER** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

	Points	SCORE
Quality of article selected for presentation	(5)	_____
Cogent reason(s) for choosing article	(5)	_____
Review of topic background	(10)	_____
Review of methodology	(10)	_____
Presentation of Results and Conclusions	(15)	_____
Demonstration of understanding the research and understanding subject concepts	(15)	_____
Slide Quality (spelling, appropriateness, legibility)	(5)	_____
Oral Presentation (audibility, poise, pronunciation)	(10)	_____
Scientific Merit/Educational Value (Hypothesis, objectives, usefulness)	(15)	_____
Responses to Questions	(10)	_____

TOTAL (out of 100) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**COMMENTS:**

**Faculty Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**PEER EVALUATION OF SEMINAR**

**SPEAKER** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Please evaluate the speaker in each of the following areas. Comments should be constructive and specific. If a section is "not applicable" for this seminar, put N/A in the blank area. Your comments and your name will be given to the speaker.

**Content, quality, and appropriateness of the abstract:**

**Thoroughness and appropriateness of the literature review:**

**Appropriateness and depth of the discussion of methods and procedures:**

**Interpretations of data and validity of conclusions:**

**Quality of presentation, including visuals, speech, organization and timing:**

**Educational value or scientific merit:**

**Response to questions:**

**Overall impression:**

**NAME OF EVALUATOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR (6938) GRADING SHEET**

<b>Speaker</b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____	<b>SCORE</b>
ABSTRACT	(10%)	_____
LITERATURE REVIEW (Thoroughness, depth, appropriateness)	(10%)	_____
METHODS, PROCEDURES, APPROACH	(10%)	_____
RESULTS and CONCLUSIONS (Interpretation, validity)	(15%)	_____
SLIDE QUALITY (Spelling, appropriateness, legibility)	(10%)	_____
ORAL PRESENTATION (Audibility, poise, pronunciation)	(10%)	_____
TIMING	(5%)	_____
SCIENTIFIC MERIT or EDUCATIONAL VALUE (Hypothesis, objectives, technical or practical usefulness)	(20%)	_____
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS	(10%)	_____
	<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

**COMMENTS**

---

Signature of Faculty Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM

TO: Students Presenting Seminars

FROM: Wendy J. Dahl, Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences Seminar Coordinator

Please complete the following information and submit on Canvas a week prior to your seminar date.

1. Title of Seminar

2. Short autobiography, including:

Birthplace

Degree(s), & year conferred, & institution

Major

Minor

Date entered UF

Advisor

3. Anything else you think is appropriate for your introduction.



## Nutritional Sciences Seminar: Spring 2025\*

Theme: Food Form, Nutrition, and Health

McCarty B G001

Thursdays 3:45 p.m.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96983031931>

Date	Speaker	Title (and Discussants)
January 16	Student Orientation	
January 23	TBA	
<b>January 30</b>	<b>Dr. Feng Yue</b> <b>Assistant Professor</b> <b>Department of Animal Sciences, UF</b>	Role of a Novel Protein FAM210A in Mitochondrial Dynamics and Metabolic Homeostasis.
<b>February 6</b>	<b>Dr. Larissa Strath</b> <b>Assistant Professor</b> <b>Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics, College of Medicine, UF</b>	Pain and Aging: A Nutriepigenomic Perspective.
February 13	Jacob Shine	Theme
February 20	Ehsan Safaei	Theme
February 27	Jingying “Clary” Yang	Theme
March 6	TBA	
<b>March 13</b>	<b>Dr. Xi Fang*</b> <b>Associate Professor</b> <b>Department of Medicine</b> <b>University of California, San Diego</b>	Learning with Genetic Mitochondrial Cardiomyopathy: From Barth Syndrome to Beyond
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 27	Shaneice Urbina	Dissertation Proposal
April 3	Dylan Blaufus	Theme
April 10	May Alshahwan	Final Dissertation: The Mediterranean Diet, Food Security, Psychosocial Factors, and Mental Health Symptoms among College Students
April 17	Yue “Lois” He	Dissertation proposal

\*Subject to change.

Seminar Coordinator: Dr. Wendy Dahl, 352-294-3707; [wdahl@ufl.edu](mailto:wdahl@ufl.edu)