



HUN 6938 Nutritional Sciences Seminar

Spring 2026

THEME: Hot Topics in Human Nutrition

1-Credit In-person

Class time: Thursdays 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Class Location: G001 MCCD/Zoom

Instructor

Instructor: Wendy J. Dahl PhD RD FDC, Professor
Department: Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN)
Office: FSHN Building, Room 207
Phone: 352-294-3707
Email: wdahl@ufl.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

Presentation of reports on research in nutrition.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to use critical thinking to evaluate research in nutritional sciences, develop skills in scientific communication and discourse, and provide and receive constructive feedback.

Course Prerequisites

Permission of the Coordinator.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Title
January 15	Student Orientation	
January 22	TBA	
January 29	TBA	
February 5	TBA	
February 12	TBA	
February 19	TBA	
February 26	TBA	
March 5	Yuijia Cheng	Theme
March 12	Melissa Moreno	Theme
March 19	Spring Break	
March 26	Shaneice Urbina	Theme
April 2	Eshan Safaei	Dissertation Proposal
April 9	Valeria Gomez	Dissertation Proposal
April 16	Jake Shine	Final dissertation

*Schedule is subject to change.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

None

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Seminar presentation with abstract	100	100%

Grading Scale

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

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas)
 - [Instructure Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom
 - [Zoom Privacy Policy](#)
 - [Zoom Accessibility](#)

Additional information

Attendance and Expectations for Discussion

Students are expected to attend all scheduled seminar sessions **in-person**, arrive on time, and remain present for the entire class. One unexcused absence per term is allowed. 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. The requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other coursework in this course are consistent with university 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 discussions by posing thoughtful questions to seminar presenters and to provide written evaluations of their fellow students' 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 a conflict arises 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.

FSHN Department Graduate Student Seminar Procedures

Students who plan to give a seminar must contact the Seminar Coordinator by the midterm of the semester prior to the semester of presentation. The student should define whether the seminar will be the final research seminar (for thesis M.S. or Ph.D.) or a theme seminar (for non-thesis M.S. and Ph.D.), and request the presentation dates. 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 prior to the scheduled presentation. Please email your abstract in Word format to Wendy Dahl at wdahl@ufl.edu to be included in 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 to Canvas.

Visuals

PowerPoint is the preferred method for presentations. Carefully proofread your slides for readability, color consistency, and other visual elements. Ask a colleague or your advisor to review the slides. It is

essential that you arrive at the seminar room well in advance of the start time to ensure that everything is in working order.

Evaluation

The forms are below for your review. Peer evaluations are conducted on paper, and faculty evaluations will be administered 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:

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 name will be shared with 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

Speaker _____

Date _____

		SCORE
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%)	_____
	TOTAL	_____

COMMENTS
