

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
Food Security Program**

FSEC 315: Food Policies and their Planning Process

Course Syllabus

Credits: 3

Course Duration: approximately 15 weeks

Contact Hours: 3 hours per week

Course Instructor: Dr. Martin Keulertz, Assistant Professor
Room: Reynolds 117
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Course Description

This course builds knowledge of the food system from local planning and policy and applied economic perspectives. The course familiarizes students with key players and issues related to the practice of food system planning (the process and practice of creating and implementing food policies), how this practice interfaces with the economy, and how to place these issues in a global context. The course will take a supply chain perspective covering selected local and international actors.

Course Schedule Tuesdays 3:00 - 6:00 PM
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 - 5:00PM

Course Format

FSEC 315 meets once a week during term 2. There will be a lecture and a seminar every week lasting for 75 minutes for nine sessions. Two sessions will be seminar only with pre-conducted analysis/coursework by the students on food security strategies. One session will be a field day; one session a strategic food security game and on two sessions either a mid-term or the final poster competition will be held. Lectures are based on sequential materials as proposed in the syllabus. There is an extensive amount of reading and discussion that is expected in this upper level course during both the class and seminars. The seminar session will be an opportunity to participate more fully in critiques and discussions of assigned readings, lead reviews of topical area and meet with invited guest speakers. All materials should be carefully reviewed; handouts and information covered during class discussion and on Moodle are all subject to evaluation. Both guest speakers and field days will round up the course to provide students with an applied perspective on food policies and their planning process.

Course Objectives

FSEC 315 should support the following program learning outcomes (PLOs), such that students are prepared to:

- Discuss the linkages between food security and wider socio-economic development in the context of the MENA region (e.g., public health, agricultural policy, rural development, environment, production, trade);
- Relate food policy to political, cultural, gender, and ethical issues, including the broader human rights debate on the right to food;
- Communicate effectively on the issue of food security and food policy, from its relevance for social and political stability in developing countries to the interpretation of research findings, to diverse institutional and community audiences;
- Assess food security strategies, policies, programs, and their implementation in developing countries and the MENA region;
- Design evidence-based food security strategies specific to regional or national needs
- Formulate implementation and dissemination plans for food security strategies by partnering with community groups, small businesses, producers' organizations, health professionals, universities, and government agencies to address food insecurity.

Program Learning Outcomes and Course Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcome	Corresponding Course Learning Outcome(s)	Teaching Strategy/Activities	Assessment Method & Evaluation Criteria
Discuss the linkages between food security and wider socio-economic development in the context of the MENA region (e.g., health, education, rural development, energy, climate, production)	Discuss the linkages between food security, food policies and wider socio-economic development in the context of the MENA region (e.g., public health, agricultural policy, rural development, environment, production, trade)	Lecture, seminar, guest speaker presentations, poster competition	mid-term, poster competition, seminars

	Explain and critically assess food policies and economic concepts such as the green economy, supply chain management, subsidies and food trade		
Relate food security to political, cultural, gender, and ethical issues, including the broader human rights debate on the right to food	Assess the current state of food and nutrition policies by critically reflecting on their social and cultural impact	Lectures, seminars, guest presentations	Final year exam, student presentations, attendance and participation
Communicate effectively on the issue of food security, from its relevance for social, environmental and political stability in developing countries to the interpretation of research findings, to diverse institutional and community audiences	Demonstrate knowledge of the common problems facing communication for development in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) countries (class discussions & group work)	seminar, group discussion	mid-term exam, poster competition, student presentations, attendance and participation
Communicate effectively on the issue of food security, from its relevance for social, environmental and political stability in developing countries to the interpretation of research findings, to diverse institutional and community audiences	Present and document results and findings in a scientifically appropriate format (student presentations, poster competition)	seminar, group discussion	student presentations, poster competition, attendance and participation
Communicate effectively on the issue of food security, from its relevance for social, environmental and political stability in developing countries to the interpretation of research findings, to diverse institutional and community audiences	Demonstrate mastery of oral presentation skills (public speaking, PowerPoint)	seminar, group discussion	student presentations
Formulate implementation and dissemination plans for food security strategies by partnering with community groups, small businesses, producers' organizations, health professionals, universities, and government agencies to address food insecurity	Communicate and discuss food and nutrition security strategies with external stakeholders	Lectures, seminars, field trips, guest presentations	poster competition
Design evidence-based food security strategies specific to regional or national needs; and	Design an academic poster showing the linkages between supply chain actors and ways for policy intervention	Poster competition	Poster competition

Student Evaluation

	Due Date	Weighting
Seminar Presentations	Each student will be allocated one slot	20%
Mid-term Exam	Tbc	30%
Attendance and Participation	Throughout course	20%
Poster Competition	Tbc	30%

All required literature will be made available online on Moodle.

Course Policies

- Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in the topic identified in the syllabus or announced in class. It is expected that in an upper-level, multi-discipline class, students will seek out additional clarification as needed based. Likewise, students will be encouraged to bring in their diverse knowledge and expertise to enhance our collective knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition security. Students will be expected to show respect towards all members of the learning community. After the first class meeting, complete the assigned readings prior to coming to class. Any adjustments made to assignments are the responsibility of the student. There is an expectation for meaningful engagement which cannot happen if students are not completing the readings or not coming to class in a consistent manner.
- Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars. Absence, whether excused or not, from any class does not excuse the student from his/her responsibility for the work done or from any announcement made during his/her absence. Students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions in the first ten weeks of the semester will lose all credit for the course and will receive a grade of W (withdraw). (AUB Catalogue).
- Course exams will be “closed-book/closed-notes”. Students should leave their bags, books, lecture notes, etc. in unoccupied areas of the exam room, and switch off their mobile phones, before the start of the exam.
- Plagiarism in produced material for all assignment tasks is unacceptable. Students might be asked to bring proof of originality of work. If plagiarism is suspected, a failing grade may be given on the assignment. Please read AUB’s policy on cheating and plagiarism <http://pnp.aub.edu.lb/general/conductcode/158010081.html>
- Cell phones, Blackberries, beepers and pagers must be turned off during class and discussion.

- There is one poster competition and a mid-term examination. They are designed to be comprehensive in nature. The poster will cover a policy proposal by students. The mid-term examination will be a mix of multiple choice, fill-in, short essay and long essay.
- Students must provide a medical form in case of late assignments. Otherwise, the assignment will be marked as failed.
- If you have a documented special needs and anticipate difficulties with the content or format of the course due to a physical or learning disability, please contact me and/or your academic advisor, as well as the Counseling Center in the Office of Student Affairs (x3196), as soon as possible to discuss options for accommodations. Those seeking accommodations must submit a [Special Needs Support Request Form](#) along with the required documentation.
- Any specific policies that the Food Security Program has would apply to this course.