

Foods & Nutrition 3380B Policy Development and Advocacy
Brescia University College, Western University
Winter 2016

Course Director: Dr. Paul Barker
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Classes: Tues. 10:30-11:30 & Thurs. 9:30-11:30 Room 204
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs. 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the policy-development and advocacy efforts of interest groups and other bodies wishing to influence the actions of government in Canada in the area of foods and nutrition. The focus for this course is on the Dietitians of Canada, a body representing Registered Dietitians, and its attempts to address obesity, sodium reduction, the role of dietitians in primary care, and other policy matters relevant to sound nutritional practices. Additional groups and issues may also be considered to better understand advocacy and the dynamics in the five stages of government policy-making. Ultimately, the course seeks to reveal the ways in which government can be convinced to adopt and carry out programs and policies essential to the nutritional health of Canadians.

Learning Objectives

On completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Understand the basic government framework in which policy development and advocacy efforts take place.
- Demonstrate the nature of advocacy and the various activities employed to influence the actions of government. These activities include lobbying, government consultations, shaping of public opinion, and strategic planning.
- Identify and analyze the policy-development work of advocacy groups relating to food and nutrition issues in Canada and the advocacy efforts of these same groups.
- Develop and design policy-development proposals and accompanying advocacy tactics necessary for persuading government of the importance of foods and nutrition program proposals.

Course Materials

Readings will be made available through the class. The course will have an OWL site on which materials and items will be posted.

Evaluation

Quizzes*	10%
Mid Term (Feb. 11)	20%
Advocacy Report (Mar. 24)#	20%
Participation@	10%
Final exam (Apr. exam period)	40%

* Four quizzes on assigned readings.

Paper which proposes an advocacy approach to a proposed policy affecting foods and nutrition. More information on paper provided in class.

@ Participation based on random attendance-taking and contribution to class discussion.

Weekly Outline

Week 1

Jan. 5, 7: Introduction + Basics in Policy Development & Advocacy

Reading 1: Michael Howlett and Sarah Geist, "The Policy-Making Process," in E. Araral Jr. et al., eds., *Routledge Handbook of Public Policy* (New York: Routledge, 2003)

Week 2

Jan. 12, 14 Basics in Policy Development and Advocacy (cont'd)

Reading 2: Rand Dyck, *Canadian Politics: Critical Approaches, 7th ed.* (Toronto: Nelson, 2014), ch. 16

Reading 3: Sean Moore, "Can Public Policy Advocacy be Taught or Learned," *The Philanthropist* 23:4 (2011)

Reading 4: Canadian CED Network, *Art of Advocacy*

Week 3

Jan. 19, 21 Agenda Setting: Food Insecurity and Advertising

Reading 5: Justin Rex and David Jackson, "Window of Opportunity? Internet Gambling in Canada," *Canadian Public Policy* 35: 1 (2009)

Reading 6: Melanie Rock et al., "A Media Advocacy Intervention Linking Health Disparities and Food Insecurity," *Health Education Research* 26: 6 (2011)

Reading 7: Dietitians of Canada, *Federal Election 2015*

Reading 8: Dietitians of Canada, *Advertising of Food and Beverages to Children*, December 2010 (and appended letter of May 31, 2010 to federal minister of health)

Week 4

Jan. 26, 28: Agenda Setting: RDs as a profession

Reading 9: Glen Randall and Paul Williams, 'Health-Care Reform and the Dimensions of Professional Autonomy,' *Canadian Public Administration* 52:1 (2009)

Reading 10: Dietitians of Canada, *The Dietitian Workforce in Canada: A Meta-Analysis Report*, March 2011

Reading 11: Dietitians of Canada, *The Dietitian Workforce in Ontario Primary Health Care Survey Report*, September 2012

Week 5

Feb. 2, 4: Policy Formulation: Labelling at the Federal Level

Reading 12: Ellen Vogel et al., "Case Study on Nutrition Labeling: Policy-making in Canada," *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research* 71:2 (2010)

Reading 13: University of Victoria, *How to Write a Policy Recommendation*

Reading 14: *Health Canada Proposals for Nutrition Labelling (two sets)*

Week 6

Feb. 9 Policy Formulation (cont'd)

Reading 15: *Dietitians of Canada Advocacy Efforts Relating to Nutrition Labelling*

Reading 16: *Reaction to Health Canada Proposals*

Feb. 11 **TEST**

Week 7

Feb. 23, 25: Policy Formulation: Obesity

Reading 17: *Curbing Childhood Obesity: A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Framework for Action to Promote Healthy Weights*, 2010

Reading 18: Dietitians of Canada, *Childhood Healthy Weights: Recommendations for the Healthy Kids Panel*, September 2012

Reading 19: Healthy Kids Panel, *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy*, March 2013

Week 8

Mar. 1, 3: Policy Formulation: Menu Labelling in Ontario

Reading 20: *Minister's Statements and the Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015*

Reading 21: Dietitians of Canada, *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2015: Feedback from Dietitians of Canada (Ontario)*, April 2015

Reading 22: *News Stories on the Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015 (part of the Making Healthier Choices Act, 2015)*

Week 9

Mar. 8, 10 Policy Formulation: Sodium Reduction

Reading 23: *Readings on Sodium Reduction Policy Issue*

Week 10

Mar. 15, 17 Decision-Making

Reading 24: Xun Wu et al., *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process* (London: Routledge, 2010), ch. 4

Reading 25: Paul Barker, *Public Administration in Canada: Brief Edition* (Toronto: Nelson, 2008)

Reading 26: Canada, Privy Council Office, *A Drafter's Guide to Cabinet Documents*, 2012

Week 11

Mar. 22, 24, Policy Implementation: School Nutrition

Reading 27: Michael Howlett et al., *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, 3rd ed. (Toronto: OUP, 2009), ch. 7

Reading 28: Government of Ontario, *Healthy Schools: New School Food and Beverage Policy & Policy/Program Memorandum No. 150*

Reading 29: Michelle Vine and Susan Elliott, "Examining Local-Level Factors Shaping School Nutrition Policy Implementation in Ontario, Canada," *Public Health Nutrition*, 2013.

Week 12

Mar. 29, 31 Policy Evaluation

Reading 30: Wu et al., *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, ch. 6

Reading 31: Dietitians of Canada, *Moving Forward: Role of the Registered Dietitian in Primary Health Care in Canada*, 2009

Reading 32: Joanne Goldman et al., 'Inter-professional collaboration in family health teams,' *Canadian Family Physician* 2010 56:e

Week 13

Apr. 5 RDs and Canadian Health Care System ... and Exam Review

Reading 33: Dietitians of Canada, *Strengthening the Canadian Health Care System: A Call to Action from Dietitians*, November 2011

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that

may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario