

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF FOOD & NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES
FN3355B – Agriculture and Food Systems: Critical Conversations
WINTER 2019

Dr. June Matthews, PhD, RD, P.H.Ec.

Email: jmatth22@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Room 300, St. James

COURSE DESCRIPTION	This course will cover the processes and practices associated with food production in Canada. Appreciation of the whole food system (i.e., production, transformation, distribution, access, consumption, and food waste management), and the multiple aspects of sustainability, will provide a solid foundation for evidence-based conversations in future professional practice.
PREREQUISITE(S)	Foods and Nutrition 1030E, Registration in the Honors Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics module, or by permission of the Department.
FORMAT	<p>This is a blended course, with online and face-to-face instruction and interaction. Online modules are to be completed, at each student's own pace, the week BEFORE class. DURING class, students will apply, analyze, and synthesize the information through collaborative learning groups. Students are also encouraged to ask thoughtful questions, provide relevant background information, and relate current events to the material. Guest presentations will further assist students to engage in critical conversations on weekly topics. <i>Respectful appreciation of all points of view is encouraged and expected.</i></p> <p>Supplemental material (e.g., guest speaker presentations, field trip) will be covered on the final exam (in addition to content from the online modules).</p>
COURSE MATERIALS	There is no textbook for this course. For the AgScape online modules, there is a registration fee of \$55 per student. For the field trip, there will be a fee to cover the cost of the bus and lunch (TBD).
DAY & TIME	Wednesday, 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM, Room 304, St. James Building
COURSE OBJECTIVES	Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the Brescia Competencies of <i>Communication, Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving, Self Awareness & Development, Social Awareness & Engagement</i> , and <i>Valuing</i> through the following learning objectives and evaluation components.

Learning Objective	Brescia Competency
Analyze current topics in Canadian agriculture that are relevant to dietetics	<i>Inquiry & Analysis [Level 3]</i> <i>Critical Thinking [Level 3]</i>
Explain the contributions of Canadian agriculture to population health	<i>Critical Thinking [Level 3]</i> <i>Inquiry & Analysis [Level 3]</i> <i>Social Awareness & Engagement [Level 3]</i>
Develop confidence in discussing farm practices and food production systems to support evidence-based conversations with consumers and clients	<i>Self Awareness & Development [Level 3]</i> <i>Communication [Level 4]</i> <i>Valuing [Level 4]</i>
Value the complexity of, and challenges and opportunities associated with, farming in Canada	<i>Valuing [Level 4]</i> <i>Inquiry & Analysis [Level 3]</i> <i>Self Awareness & Development [Level 2]</i>
Reflect upon dietitians' roles in communicating accurate, evidence-based information about agriculture	<i>Critical Thinking [Level 3]</i> <i>Inquiry & Analysis [Level 3]</i> <i>Valuing [Level 4]</i>
Synthesize learning through individual and group assignments, and a final exam	<i>Problem Solving [Level 3]</i> <i>Communication [Level 4]</i> <i>Social Awareness & Engagement [Level 3]</i>
Demonstrate professional skills and behaviours (e.g., time and workload management; efficient and effective teamwork; effective and respectful written, oral, and interpersonal communication; leadership; self-reflection; ethics and judgment; as well as independent and collaborative literature searching, retrieval, and management)	<i>Communication [Level 4]</i> <i>Critical Thinking [Level 3]</i> <i>Inquiry & Analysis [Level 3]</i> <i>Problem Solving [Level 3]</i> <i>Self Awareness & Development [Level 3]</i>

EVALUATION

Component	Weight	Date	Brescia Competency
Individual Assignment Write a blog post related to economic, environmental, or social sustainability of food production in Canada	15%	Feb. 13, 2019	<i>Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; and Valuing</i>
Critical Reading Notes Take notes, record questions, and summarize learning from online modules (1% per submission)	10%	Weeks 2 – 11	<i>Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Self Awareness & Development</i>
Group Project Investigate the lifecycle of a Canadian food product, including an interview with a grower/producer of that product	35%	Apr. 3, 2019	<i>Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving; Social Awareness & Engagement; Self Awareness & Development; and Valuing</i>
Final Exam	40%	Apr. 11 – 30, 2019 (check schedule)	<i>Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving; and Self Awareness & Development</i>
Total	100%		

	Tentative Schedule of Topics	Online Modules	Critical Conversations
1 JAN. 9	Introduction to food production in Canada	Agriculture in Canada	<i>Why is it important for RDs to understand how food is produced?</i>
2 JAN. 16	Food security	Food security	<i>What contributes to sustainable food production and overall food security?</i>
3 JAN. 23	Economic sustainability of food production	Business	<i>What is the connection between food affordability and economic stability of the whole food system?</i>
4 JAN. 30	Environmental sustainability on the farm and in the ocean	Environmental initiatives	<i>How can RDs communicate to the public about environmental sustainability initiatives related to food production?</i>
5 FEB. 6	Social sustainability of rural and coastal communities	Local food	<i>How can health professionals contribute to the social sustainability of rural and coastal communities?</i>
6 FEB. 13	Farming techniques and approaches DUE: Individual assignment	Conventional and organic agriculture	<i>Why do farmers choose different farming techniques and approaches?</i>
	Reading Week		No class
7 FEB. 27	Dietary guidelines and sustainability	Animal health and welfare	<i>How can RDs draw multiple stakeholders' attention to the nuanced and complex relationships among diet patterns and the environment?</i>
MAR. 2	FIELD TRIP		NOTE: Field Trip is on a SATURDAY
8 MAR. 6	Food safety ... before the home kitchen	Food safety	<i>Why does the public not feel the government or food companies are competent or trusted at food safety?</i>
9 MAR. 13	Food production technologies	Biotechnology	<i>Why do growers use food production technologies like genetic modification?</i>
10 MAR. 20	Research and development	Tech and innovation	<i>How can RDs contribute to research in food production?</i>
11 MAR. 27	Policies, regulations, and advocacy	Climate change	<i>What is the role of RDs in 'advocacy'?</i>
12 APR. 3	Presentations of projects		
	FINAL EXAM		April 11 – 30 (check schedule)

SPECIFIC COURSE POLICIES

Penalty for late assignments: Assignments are due at the **beginning of class** on the date specified. There will be a **deduction of 20% of the value of the assignment** for a late submission. NO assignment will be accepted one (1) week after the due date, except for a confirmed personal illness or a death in your immediate family.

Request for re-evaluation: If you wish to have an assignment re-evaluated, you must follow these steps:

1. Re-read the assignment instructions and carefully review the grading scheme and comments provided.
2. Discuss your interpretation with your team mates.
3. If you and your team mates still wish to have your assignment re-evaluated, collaboratively prepare a **half-page** written explanation and submit it with your original assignment and marking scheme.
4. Requests for re-evaluations must be submitted within **one week of the assignment being returned**. If you are absent from the class when assignments are returned, make an appointment with the professor to retrieve your assignment. The deadline for submission of a request for re-evaluation is based **solely upon the date the assignment is returned in class**.
5. Remember to communicate respectfully and clearly why you believe a grade should be re-considered. The re-evaluation will be based on the strength of your explanation, as well as the assignment instructions and grading scheme. Please note that, after re-evaluation, your grade could go up, down, or stay the same.

Copyright: PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and any other components of the course materials are the **intellectual property of the instructor**. Reproduction through tape-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on any social media site, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely **prohibited**. Such action may also be considered a Scholastic Offence, which may lead to sanctions. Further information on Scholastic Offences is available at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20

2018-19 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 for illness 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. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

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 from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf . 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.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your 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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>). 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.*

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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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

(http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

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

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20 .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 (<http://www.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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the 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 prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

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 website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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.