

# School of Public Health

## Syllabus and Course Information



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

### PubH 7210 Section 102 Class #88042 Global Food Systems: Produce May Term 2017

---

**Credits:** 0.5 credit

**Meeting Days/Times:** June 7 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
June 8 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** Blegen Hall – Room 335

**Instructor:** Stephanie Meyer, MPH  
Senior Epidemiologist  
Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section  
Minnesota Department of Health

Craig Hedberg, PhD  
Professor  
Division of Environmental Health Sciences  
School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

**Office Address:** Meyer: MN Dept of Health  
652 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

Hedberg: Envrn Health Sciences  
MMC 807 Mayo  
420 Delaware St SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**Office Phone:** Hedberg: 612-626-4757

**E-mail:** Meyer: [wede0016@umn.edu](mailto:wede0016@umn.edu)  
Hedberg: [hedbe005@umn.edu](mailto:hedbe005@umn.edu)

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

---

#### I. Course Description

An understanding of the global food system for fresh fruits and vegetables is important in the protection of the community and security of the public's health. This system is reviewed beginning with commercial cultivation on the farm. A commercial or organic grower is visited to illustrate cultivation, irrigation, fertilization, pesticide treatment and environmental issues related to the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables. A fresh produce distributor is visited to illustrate the variety, volume and sources of fresh

produce available in the marketplace. The product distribution system is reviewed. A fresh produce processor is visited to illustrate produce handling and sanitation measures. A retail and/or food service establishment handling fresh fruits and vegetables is visited to examine the storage, handling and sale of fresh produce. Consumer issues related to the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables are discussed. Discussion will include element of foodborne disease epidemiology as it relates to fresh produce products. Examples of real food-borne disease outbreaks involving fresh fruits and vegetables are used to illustrate critical control points in the production of safe fresh fruits and vegetables.

The core competencies in Public Health Preparedness and Response identified in the CDC planning model that apply to this course include:

**Domain 1: Model Leadership**

- 1.1 Solve problems under emergency conditions
- 1.3 Facilitate collaboration with internal and external partners

**I. Course Prerequisites**

None

**II. Course Goals and Objectives**

- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Describe the concept of the food system as it relates to fresh fruits and vegetables involving inputs, processes and outputs, from the farm to the consumer
- Identify the major food safety threats involved in the fresh produce system.
- Identify the global food system of fresh produce items from the farm through processing, distribution and marketing to the consumer.
- Describe the context in which food safety policy must be formulated and implemented within the complex food system involving fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Promote the concept of food system biosecurity as a prerequisite for a safe, abundant, affordable and diverse supply of fresh fruits and vegetables

**III. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations**

- The course will consist of a 2 hour overview of the fresh produce industry from farm to consumer and a full day interaction field experience.
- Attendance is required for both the overview and the field activity. Students not participating will be assigned a failing grade.
- Students will interact with producers, processors, retailers and government regulatory officials during the field experience.
- Course grading will be determined on the basis of an assignment completed during the field experience and a written assignment due within 5 days of the completion of the field experience.

In class assignment (completed during field trip): 50 points

Assignment description: Short answers about the process at each facility visited

Post field trip assignment: 50 points

Assignment description: The goal of this assignment is to synthesize information regarding the operation of the global food system for produce with respect to the identification and management of food safety threats. This will be accomplished through the compilation of flow diagrams of the food system and responses to specific questions that focus on important steps in the production process from farm-to-table. This will include drawing a flow diagram describing the process for one product, identifying risk of introducing contamination (pathogens and non-pathogens) at different stages, and prevention strategies to maximize the safety of food products. This assignment should require approximately 15 hours of effort to read assigned readings, synthesize information learned on the field trip and prepare the report. The deadline will be 1 week after completion of the field trip.

### WAIVERS/AGREEMENTS/CONFIDENTIALITY

The sites you are visiting may require you to sign a variety of visitor agreements including a waiver and release of liability, confidentiality or non-disclosure agreements, disclosure of exposure, and agreements to follow manufacturing and food defense policies established by the individual plants and/or sites. Failure to sign the documents will exclude you from participation in the course and violation of the terms in any of the agreements may result in a failing grade".

## V. Course Text and Readings

The required and optional readings are available through the UMN Library, which can be accessed through the course Moodle site. **Readings will be available two weeks prior to the start of the course.**

### Access Course Moodle Site

- go to [www.umn.edu](http://www.umn.edu) click on the "myU" button
- login with your University ID and password
- scroll to your course and click on the Moodle site link

## VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

Day 1	Overview (2 hours)—Targets Produce Industry
Day 2	Experiential activity (all day)—Visits to farms, processing and retail

## VII. Evaluation and Grading

Course grading will be determined on the basis of an assignment completed during the field experience and a written assignment due within 5 days of the completion of the field experience.

- Field notes 50 points/50% of grade
- Written assessment 50 points/50% of grade

Attendance is required.

### This course is offered S/N only

S/N option must complete all assignments to a C- level (70%)

### For additional information, please refer to:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html>.

### Course Evaluation

The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CoursEval: [www.sph.umn.edu/courseval](http://www.sph.umn.edu/courseval). The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: [www.sph.umn.edu/grades](http://www.sph.umn.edu/grades). All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

### Incomplete Contracts

A grade of incomplete "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires that a contract be initiated

and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student's college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: [www.sph.umn.edu/grades](http://www.sph.umn.edu/grades).

**University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy** - A link to the policy can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu).

## VIII. Other Course Information and Policies

### Grade Option Change (if applicable)

For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu). **The grading option for Public Health Institute courses may not be changed after the second day of class for 4-day courses. Grading options for 2 day courses may not be changed after the first day class.**

### Course Withdrawal

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at [onestop.umn.edu](http://onestop.umn.edu) for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at [sph-ssc@umn.edu](mailto:sph-ssc@umn.edu) for further information.

### Student Conduct Code

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf).

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

### Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

### Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data,

research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code:

[http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html>.

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html>. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

### **Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences**

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see:

<http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html>.

### **Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials**

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: <http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html>.

### **Sexual Harassment**

"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

<http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf>

### **Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action**

The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: [http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity\\_Diversity\\_EO\\_AA.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf).

### **Disability Accommodations**

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/>.

## **Mental Health and Stress Management**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.

## **The Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota**

The Office for Student Affairs provides services, programs, and facilities that advance student success, inspire students to make life-long positive contributions to society, promote an inclusive environment, and enrich the University of Minnesota community.

Units within the Office for Student Affairs include, the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, Boynton Health Service, Central Career Initiatives (CCE, CDes, CFANS), Leadership Education and Development – Undergraduate Programs (LEAD-UP), the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, the Office for Student Engagement, the Parent Program, Recreational Sports, Student and Community Relations, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, the Student Parent HELP Center, Student Unions & Activities, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and University Student Legal Service.

For more information, please see the Office of Student Affairs at <http://www.osa.umn.edu/index.html>.

### **Academic Freedom and Responsibility: for courses that do not involve students in research**

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.\*

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

**OR:**

### **Academic Freedom and Responsibility, for courses that involve students in research**

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom and conduct relevant research. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.\* When conducting research, pertinent institutional approvals must be obtained and the research must be consistent with University policies.

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

\* Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".

Template update 9/2014