

NUTR 493 – Directed Study: Nutrition (Specific to Kavanagh Lab)

The University of Tennessee

3 credit hours

Spring 2017 semester theme: *The biology of breastfeeding: Anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and metabolism*

Please note: the theme, meeting time/location, and course description/objectives will change every semester

Prerequisite: CITI Training (Described below)
Class time and location: M 10-11 in room 326 JHB
Course instructor: Katie Kavanagh PhD, RD, LDN
Email: kkavanag@utk.edu
Phone: 974-6250

Course Description: We know ‘breast is best’, but what makes it so great? Using the selected theme, above, we will explore specific domains of breastfeeding biology, including what we know (or think we know) and what cutting edge work is being done. We will predominantly use peer-reviewed literature, and weekly discussions, to support our exploration. In addition, each student registered for NUTR 493 will develop a research paper (draft and final) on a topic of their choice in negotiation with Dr. Kavanagh.

Course Objectives:

1. To explore the science behind breastmilk and breastfeeding, to better understand the benefits.
2. To expose students to issues of translating research into practice, using breastfeeding as the example.
3. To provide a context for practicing critical thinking, via both oral and written communication.

Student Objectives:

1. Develop a question related to infant-feeding and expand knowledge via written research paper (including one draft and one final version).
2. Complete the readings, and attend and participate in the weekly discussions (1 hour).

Text: *Readings as outlined. Students should be able to access these through the library, but Dr. Kavanagh will also try to distribute them via email.*

Criteria for Evaluation of Student Performance: Successful completion of plagiarism tutorial; preparing for, attending, and participating in class discussion; completion of a draft and final research paper.

Expectations: Treat this experience like any other class. Show up **ON TIME** and ready to participate. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY** and an absence can only be excused if verification of medical or family emergency is provided directly to Dr. Kavanagh.

Inclement Weather Policy: Sign up for the UT Alert system (<http://safety.utk.edu/weather>).

Disability Service: Students who have a disability that requires accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087) to discuss their specific needs as well as schedule an appointment with me during my office hours.

Academic Honesty: The guidelines in the most recent *Hilltopics* will be followed in instances of academic dishonesty. In cases of academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism of any kind), the instructor has the authority to suspend a student from class, assign a penalty grade of “F” for the course, and report the offense to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. This may include expulsion from the University.

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!! Each student is required to complete the tutorial on plagiarism found at <http://library.csusm.edu/plagiarism/index.html> and will be expected to comply with these principles. ALL answers on the quizzes must be correct. If you have any incorrect responses, you must correct them before emailing confirmation of completion to Dr. Kavanagh at kkavanag@utk.edu. If you have successfully completed this tutorial in other courses, documentation from your instructor is required. You are also encouraged to review the tutorial to refresh your memory.

Research Paper

All undergraduate students enrolled in Dr. Kavanagh's NUTR 493 will be required to complete a 5-10 page research paper, the topic of which will be negotiated with Dr. Kavanagh. The topic should be finalized by the date outlined in the course schedule (generally, by the third week of the semester). Prior to beginning the paper, each student should supply proof of completion of the plagiarism module noted under the Academic Honesty section of the syllabus. Students will turn in a draft, receive feedback, and turn in a final version *by the last day of classes in the semester NUTR 493 is taken.*

The paper constitutes a significant proportion of your grade, and a detailed rubric will be provided by January 29th. This assignment is worth 30% of your final course grade. You will receive a score between 0 and 100 on the first draft. **This first draft score remains part of the final score for the paper.** For example, if a student receives a 70 on the first draft, even if they provide an excellent final paper, they cannot receive a grade higher than an 88 ((70*.3) + 60). This is constructed in such a way as to encourage the first draft to be a serious endeavor, but allow some room for improvement.

Paper guidelines* – papers should follow the general model of a review article:

- Introduction – Introduce the issue and explain why it is an issue.
- Body – Present relevant research in a logical fashion. (Developing a preliminary outline and discussing with Dr. Kavanagh is highly recommended).
- Conclusion – Summarize what was important from the articles reviewed and discuss what may need to be answered next.

Papers should be a minimum of 5 pages, double-spaced, and a maximum of 10 pages double-spaced. Proper grammar and correct spelling are critical to receiving a high score. If writing skills are considered to be particularly weak, in consultation with Dr. Kavanagh, a recommendation for the NUTR 493 student to seek more formal assistance with technical writing skills may be made.

Students must use original research articles for this paper. If you are unsure what this means, discuss with Dr. Kavanagh. Citations are required and should be in the style of the Journal of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND). Dr. Kavanagh's philosophy is to cite, cite, cite! Presenting someone else's idea as your own is plagiarism!!!

*In some cases in this class, students may be completing a paper related to an honors thesis. In these situations, honors thesis requirements supersede the requirements stated here.

CITI Training

Prior to working in the lab, students must complete this training and provide proof to Dr. Kavanagh. Contact her for registration instructions.

COURSE SCHEDULE NOT INCLUDED IN WEBSITE VERSION

January 17, 2017

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