



Northeastern University College of Professional Studies Department of Regulatory Affairs Course Syllabus

CRN: 70724
RFA 6120: Economic and Social Aspects of Food
Term: Fall 2017
Dates: October 30, 2017 – December 16, 2017
Course Format: Online
Professor: Dr. Keenan Davis, LP.D.
NEU E-mail: ke.davis@neu.edu
Phone: (971) 303-8201 - I am available by phone each Monday and Thursday between 1-4 pm EST. However, email is the best mode of communication. I will respond to your email inquiry within 24 hours. To set up a call outside of office hours, please email me 72 hours in advance.

Note regarding e-mail/voicemail: If you e-mail me, please include your name and class title. Please allow up to 48 hours for an email reply, I check my email regularly but have dedicated 8am -12pm daily as time for course correspondence. All class correspondence will go to your assigned NEU email account. Any emails being sent to the whole class will go to your NEU email. It is mandatory you use your NEU/Husky email account when contacting me. If you leave me a voicemail, please remember to include your name, class title, and phone number.

Required Text(s)/Software/Tools:

None – We will be using an online version of:

Teays, W. (2015). *Business Ethics through Movies: A Case Study Approach*. NY: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1-118-94194-2

Recommended Textbooks/Resources:

Turabian, Kate L. et al. (2013). *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* (8th ed.). Chicago: University Of Chicago Press. [ISBN: 978-0226823379]

APA. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. [ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5]

Course Description

Students are introduced to the cause and effect relationship of geographic, political, economic, and social / cultural aspects of food. Offers students an overview of the forces that govern changes in policies as well as the demand, supply, cost, and perceived value of food in the U.S. Societal factors are explored in terms of their cause and effect relationship with the evolution of food throughout the 20th century in America. Students will evaluate emerging and dominant trends in food purchasing and consumption, the roles of the government and industry, and the roles of consumers / citizens.

Course Outcomes

The course materials, lectures, discussions, and assignments provide students with the opportunity to:

- CO1: Summarize ethical theories and analyze an ethical dilemma in the food industry
- CO2: Summarize and analyze an economic theory as it pertains to the food industry
- CO3: Summarize the connections between the food industry, policies, and regulatory agencies
- CO4: Justify the connection between a court decision and an ethical theory

Course Methodology

Each week, you will be expected to:

1. Review the week's learning objectives
2. Complete all assigned readings / videos
3. Complete all lecture materials for the week
4. Participate in class discussions
5. Complete and submit all assignments and tests by the due dates
6. Proactively contact the instructor with any questions or concerns

Class Participation/Discussion

Students are responsible for any communications sent to their official, NEU-husky email account. Each week, the course website will provide a set of discussion questions. You will be asked to submit answers to some or all of the questions. Students must submit contributions by stated deadlines unless otherwise arranged beforehand.

Please label posts to be graded as either **“Primary Response”** or **“Secondary Response.”**

- One **“Primary Response”** for each discussion question is due by Wednesday, 11:59 PM (EST.)
- Two to three **“Secondary Responses”** to other students' posts due by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST.)

Discussion Board is worth 21% of students' final grade. Your grade will reflect the depth and detail of your responses. The best submissions are those that move the discussion forward by opening as many questions as they answer. Simply stating the facts, while important, are only part of a meaningful online discussion. Quality contributions take into account not only the instructor's questions but also your classmates' contributions.

The Discussion Board is a space for academic exchanges. As a result, you must check for proper and exacting punctuation, spelling, and grammar. In addition, you must reference all outside sources in correct citation format. It is crucial that all participants maintain a high regard for proper decorum in the Discussion Board. A grading rubric for Discussion Board responses is provided.

EACH WEEK will include two threads: DQ1 will focus on the assigned reading / viewing materials for that week, while DQ2 will focus on the upcoming assignment or a reflection/peer feedback on the previous assignment.

Please treat your classmates and the instructors with the utmost respect. Inappropriate posts will be removed immediately. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for repeated violations of the participation policy within a course.

In the discussion board and in class, high quality contributions advance the class discussions and do not simply summarize the material that was assigned. Quality contributions take into account not only the instructor's questions but also your classmates' contributions.

Additional Considerations:

Students are responsible for any communications sent to their official, NEU-husky e-mail account.

Attendance Policy:

In both on-ground and online courses, you are expected to attend all classes and discussions for the entire length of term. In addition, you will also be expected to complete assignments and group projects outside of class. Students may be penalized for all unexcused absences. The University does allow for certain types of excused absences (<http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/images/CPS-Stu-Handbook2013-2014.pdf>). However, you will be expected to notify your instructor at least 48 hours in advance for all absences from class. Approval for absences is at the instructor's discretion. In the case of a missed course or excused absence, including during the add-drop period, students are expected to make arrangements with the instructor to make up all materials in a timely fashion.

Tardiness Policy:

In courses which meet in person, students may be marked down for lateness to class at the discretion of the instructor. Students should make all possible attempts notify the instructor at least 48 hours before missing a course meeting. Online students are expected to participate regularly and punctually in their online course and are responsible for all deadlines course announcements, e-mails, discussion board and water cooler posts or other instructions from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Communication/Submission of Work

In the Assignments folder, click on the View/Complete Assignment link to view and each assignment. Attach your completed assignments here and click Submit to turn them in to me. Once your assignment has been graded, you will be able to view the grade and feedback I have provided by clicking on My Grades in the Tools module from the Northeastern University Online Campus tab. In most cases, your written work will be reviewed by Turnitin® in order to check for originality and correct citation practices. Additionally, your instructor or TA may request a printed paper copy for his or her records.

Technical Issues:

In the case of technical issues for online assignments, NUOnline (nuonline@neu.edu or 24/7 Phone support at 1-855-836-3520) and the instructor should be notified immediately and the e-mail and **help-ticket reference** case retained. Please note, technical issues are not a sufficient excuse for missing deadlines, therefore students may or may not receive credit for late material at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Assignment policy:

A deduction of **20%** percent will be made for each day that an assignment is late. Work will no longer be accepted **3** days after the specified deadline, unless specific arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Class Schedule / Topical Outline

WEEK	TOPIC	WEEKLY ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for the Journey • The Moral Compass: Business Ethics and Society 	Discussion Boards Readings Virtual Lectures	Case History Poster Due Sunday 11:59PM EST Case Writers Guide / Worksheet (complete the guide worksheets – not to be submitted, but for your use later)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Capitalism (Greed) • Ethics and Communication / Technology 		
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial Surveillance: Ethical Theory • Teleological Ethics 		CASE HISTORY (Case Study part “A”) Due Sunday 11:59PM EST
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deontological Ethics (Duty) • Virtue Ethics (Moral Character) 		Case Consultation Poster Due Sunday 11:59PM EST
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caring Community: Feminist Ethics 		CASE CONSULTATION (Case Study part “A” + part “B”) Due Sunday 11:59PM EST
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working for Change: Global Justice & Human Rights 		Peer Review of posters Due Wednesday 11:59PM EST

Overview of Course

We begin with a brief look at historical changes in the food industry over the last century or so, along with an introduction to ethics. Students will write a brief paper in which they apply social science perspectives to a few ethical dilemmas related to food and will write a proposal letter identifying their topic of choice for a case study on ethical dilemmas in food (case study to be completed in RFA6120.) Students will continue with the focus on ethics as we shift to a unit on food economics. Here, students will look at some economic basics and dive into an analysis of the economic theory of maximum utilization and the work of Nobel Economist George Stigler. Next, students will look at policies and policy-makers. Students will create a video (voice-over PowerPoint) in which they connect a food commodity or process to a policy to a regulatory authority, defining and explaining the connections along the way. An extension of this activity will be seen in the focus on international policy as students create a set of “Primers” on international policy systems relevant to the food industry. Food law will be introduced, both in terms of institutions and landmark cases. Students will write an analytical paper extending the US Supreme Court’s decision in *Park v. U.S.* (1975) to more recent cases. The final unit on food science will introduce students to foodborne pathogens and students will create a poster for the three types of contaminants.

Throughout the course, students will create a professional/academic (ePortfolio) webpage that highlights their professional development, competencies, and career.

You can find term dates with your contract documents or on the Registrar website/Calendar page.

<http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/calendars.html>

RFA6120 Grading Breakdown:

ITEM	%	DUE DATE				TOTAL
			WEEK	# of DQs	Points per week	POINTS
Discussion Board Participation (DQ =Discussion Question)	21%	WEEKLY– “Primary Responses” due by Wednesday, 11:59 PM (EST). 2-3 “Secondary Responses” to other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST)	1	2	35	
			2	2	35	
			3	2	35	
			4	2	35	
			5	2	35	
			6	2	35	
			TOTAL:	12	210	210
Initial Poster	4%	Week 1 by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST)			40	
Case History (“A”)	25%	Week 3 by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST)			250	
Final Poster	10%	Week 4 by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST)			100	
Complete Case Study (“A”+“B”)	35%	Week 5 by Sunday, 11:59 PM (EST)			350	
Peer Review of Posters	5%	Week 6 by Saturday, 11:59 PM (EST)			50	
	100%	Total:			1000	

Academic Integrity Policy

The University views academic dishonesty as one of the most serious offenses that a student can commit while in college and imposes appropriate punitive sanctions on violators. Here are some examples of academic dishonesty. While this is not an all-inclusive list, we hope this will help you to understand some of the things instructors look for. The following is excerpted from the University’s policy on academic integrity; the complete policy is available in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is available on the CPS [Student Resources page](#) > Policies and Forms.

Cheating – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in an academic exercise

- Unauthorized use of notes, text, the Internet, or other aids during an examination.
- Copying from another student’s academic work.
- Unauthorized communication during an examination.
- Handing in the same paper for more than one course without explicit permission from the instructor(s).

Fabrication – intentional and unauthorized falsification, misrepresentation, or invention of any data, or citation in an academic exercise

Plagiarism – intentionally representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one’s own in any academic exercise without providing proper citation

- Word-for-word quotations from a source, including another student’s work.
- Paraphrasing (using the ideas of others in your own words).
- Unusual or controversial facts not widely recognized.
- Audio, video, digital, or live exchanges of ideas, dialogues, or information.

Additionally, the Regulatory Affairs Department and its instructors would like to remind all students that proper citation requires **both** quotation marks and thoroughly documented references:

1. When writing, if using someone else’s **exact words**, these words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, etc. **must be enclosed in quotation marks** and their source be properly cited in parenthetical documentation, footnote, or endnote format as specified by the instructor. **Any** use of the words of another person without quotation marks will be considered academically dishonest.

2. Any use of the **idea** of another person, even if paraphrased by the student author, must be marked by proper citation, whether parenthetical documentation, footnote, or endnote format as specified by the instructor. The use of the idea of another author without proper citation will be considered academically dishonest.

Unauthorized collaboration – instances when students submit individual academic works that are substantially similar to one another; while several students may have the same source material, the analysis, interpretation, and reporting of the data must be each individual's independent work.

Participation in academically dishonest activities – any action taken by a student with the intent of gaining an unfair advantage

Facilitating academic dishonesty – intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to violate any provision of this policy

For more information on Academic Integrity, including examples, please refer to the Student Handbook, pages 9-11.

Northeastern University Online Policies and Procedures

For comprehensive information please go to <http://www.cps.neu.edu/online/>

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Instructor Biographical Sketch

Dr. Keenan Davis is a social scientist located in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Davis works for a civic enterprise, which is a modern-day term for "think tank." He received his bachelors from LSU, masters from Regis University, and doctorate from Northeastern University. His academic background is in organization leadership and law and public policy. Professionally, Dr. Davis spent nearly a decade working in professional sports for the Chicago Bulls, NFL, and NFL Europe office. For the past 8 years he founded and led 4 start-ups, one of which was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He loves to travel and move around, having lived in six different locations, visited 43 states, and 17 different countries. He is married with a young daughter.

Recommended Writing Resources:

Northeastern University Tutoring Services:

<http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/tutoring-services.php>

Services include Tutoring Center, Writing Center, and Smarthinking – available to online and on-ground students

Northeastern University Academic Integrity page:

<http://www.cps.neu.edu/student-resources/academic-integrity.php>

Purdue University Online Writing Lab

Purdue University (2014). *Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)*. Available: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>