

NFS 302 Nutrition, Athletics, Performance and Behavior

Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Toronto

2025 Winter Semester

Course Syllabus

1. Course Description:

This course will give an overview of the emerging and advancing role of chronic diet and supplements in athletics, performance, and behavior. Essentially, this course seeks to answer the question: “How should a human eat to optimize health, physical fitness and sports performance?”

2. Course Pre-requisite:

NFS 284 – Basic Human Nutrition

3. Learning Objectives:

- Acquire further knowledge and understanding of the science of human nutrition as it relates to exercise physiology, metabolism and sport performance.
- Examine the scientific basis and rationale for current nutrition recommendations for athletes and physically active people
- Explain the potential role of specific dietary supplements/ergogenic aids in optimizing physical performance and evaluate their usefulness and safety.
- Gain an awareness of the health issues and dietary challenges of athletes
- Apply acquired knowledge to identify and evaluate dietary strategies for enhancing sport performance in terms of its effectiveness and implications for health and safety.

4. Course Instructor and Teaching Assistants:

Instructor: Denis Collier, MSc
Registered Dietitian
Email: denis.collier@utoronto.ca

TAs: Madeline Erlich, RD, PhD candidate
Diana Ghidanac, RD, PhD candidate
Anna Yehia, MSc, PhD candidate

5. Lectures & Office Hours:

Lecture time: 9:00-12:00 Thursday mornings

Location:

*This is an in-person class. I have no plans on recording any of the lectures.

However since COVID-19, I have shifted to on-line office hours over ZOOM. This has worked well. There will be (at least) one hour each week outside of class times where students can join to ask any questions. The exact times might vary from week to week.

6. Textbook and Readings:

There is NO REQUIRED text book for this course.

However as a review of fundamental concepts the student may benefit from referring to:

- The text book used in this course's pre-requisite: Smolin, Grosvenor, Gurfinkel. Nutrition: Science and Applications, 2012
- For a reference more specific to sports nutrition, the recommended text is Burke L and Deakin V. Clinical Sports Nutrition, 4th edition, 2010. This is available at the library
- A variety of papers from scientific journals which will be posted on Quercus each week and relevant to the lecture content for that specific week

7. Course Outline

Week Number	Lecture Topics
1: Jan.9	"Sports, Nutrition & Critical Thinking" (plus introduction to the course) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What makes a human good at sports?• Fallacies of logical reasoning relevant to nutrition
2: Jan.16	"Energy for Optimal Performance": <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bioenergetics• Carbohydrates
3: Jan.23	"Building Bodies for Optimal Performance": <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protein & Muscle• Fat & Adipose Tissue
4: Jan.30	"All About Fluids" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dehydration• Overhydration• Nutrition During Exercise
5: Feb.6	"Testosterone & Sports"
6: Feb.13	Mid-Term Exam
7:Feb.20	READING WEEK
8: Feb.27	Anabolic Steroids ; Nutritional Supplements Overview
9: Mar.6	"Supplements for Physical Performance":

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creatine • Caffeine • Buffers • Beetroot
10: Mar.13	“Vitamins & Minerals for Physical Performance:” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium • Vitamin D • Antioxidants
11: Mar.20	Iron; REDs
12: Mar.27	“Nutritional Timing Around Exercise”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Exercise Nutrition • Post-Exercise Muscle Gain • Post-Exercise Energy Recovery
13: Apr.3	“Performance Nutrition Across the Ages”: Youth to Masters
TBA	FINAL EXAM

7. Assessment

Type	Due Date	Value
Questions on Athlete Interviews	Floating due dates; Jan.13 to Apr.3	5%
Articles for Research Paper	Monday February 3, 11:59pm	2%
Research Paper	Monday March 10, 11:59pm	18%
Athlete Case Study	Monday March 31, 11:59pm	20%
Mid-term Exam	February 13, 9:15-11:15am	25%
Final Exam	Tba	30%

8. Important Course Policies:

a) Electronic communication:

The most direct way to contact the instructor is via email: denis.collier@utoronto.ca. This email is only to be used for questions relevant to this course. The instructor cannot and will not provide answers/advice regarding personal nutritional matters.

All U of T students are required to have a valid U of T email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your U of T e-mail address is set up and properly entered in ACORN. Otherwise you will NOT be able to receive emails from your instructor as @mail.utoronto.ca addresses are the only addresses used by Quercus. You are also responsible for checking your U of T email account on a regular basis. Failure to do so is not an acceptable excuse for missing important messages.

Announcements may be periodically posted on the course website and it is the student’s responsibility to check there regularly.

b) Assignments and Turnitin Policy:

"Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

The statement was prepared by the University lawyers and is available on our web site on the Turnitin page, under the Conditions of Use section at:

<http://teaching.utoronto.ca/ed-tech/teaching-technology/turnitin/how-it-works>

For this course, students will be asked to submit all the assignments (except the 2 marks for your references for the research paper) to Turnitin, via submission to Quercus. Though submission of your assignment to Turnitin is voluntary, there must be an alternative method of detecting possible plagiarism. For those who elect not to submit to Turnitin, as an alternative you will be expected to meet with the prof for a short oral test during which you will be asked questions about the writing of the assignment and its content. Your assignment grade may be changed based on how well you answer these questions.

All the Turnitin submissions are reviewed. Students are expected to independently work on their assignments and properly paraphrase and cite sources used for their assignments. Students will be e-mailed if there are any concerns about their writing. Often this is no more than a discussion of how to properly paraphrase and or cite references, but the deduction of marks may also result. Failure to respond to such an e-mail will result in the deduction of assignment marks. If a serious case of plagiarism is suspected, the student's assignment will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Integrity for review and possible sanction.

c) Policy Regarding Late Assignments:

Please note that poor time management, having several assignments due at the same time, having to study for term tests, having a part-time job, etc are NOT compelling reasons why you cannot pass in an assignment on time. Students are expected to complete their assignments as best they can, hand them in on time, even if incomplete, and accept that they may not get as high a grade as they would like.

Students who are struggling within illness, personal distress, etc. are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, extensions are provided in accordance with the terms of your letter of accommodation.

The time at which students submit assignments as per Quercus will be considered the official time of submission. By way of penalty for late submission, each 24-hour increment in which you submit a late assignment will result in a 10% decrease i.e. if you submit a perfect assignment the day after it was due, you will get 90%, 2 days late 80%, 3 days later 70%, etc.

Students may choose to email the instructor (denis.collier@utoronto.ca) if some unforeseen legitimate emergency arises. This does not include your laptop or the internet crashing. All information you send me is treated as confidential. Please note the more time in advance you make your situation known is likely to result in your getting a more desirable outcome.

Additionally, please see this link for the universities policy on medical certificates:
<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php>.

Students dealing with intense or ongoing personal distress or chronic illness, who may need special and continuing accommodation, may be asked for additional documentation and are advised to discuss their situation with their college registrar

d) Policy regarding assignment re-reads:

If you would like have your assignment rechecked for the way your assignment has been graded, please submit in writing a brief explanation of where you believe an oversight has occurred. You may underline or highlight the relevant portions. The portions highlighted along with the remainder of the assignment will be reviewed and **your grade can go up, down or stay the same**. Please note that the higher your initial grade, especially > 80%, the less likely an upward adjustment of marks will occur.

Deadline for re-read requests is one week after the assignment is returned.

e) Policy regarding missed exams:

There is no possibility of making up a missed mid-term exam. If a student misses the mid-term exam FOR SOME LEGITIMATE reason, the worth of the mid-term (i.e. 25%) will be re-weighted toward the final exam.

Policy regarding a missed final exam is determined by the Faculty of Arts and Science. If you have compelling reasons for missing your final exam, contact your college registrar to file a petition; do this quickly, there are deadlines. You must provide documentation to support your petition. If your petition is accepted you will be permitted to write a deferred exam. A deferred exam fee (approximately \$70) must be paid. **Note:** Students may lose access to courses on Quercus several months after the last day of classes, so be sure you have downloaded all documents you need to study from the course website before then.

f) Policy regarding rounding of final grades

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest integer if they end in 0.450 or greater

Final grades ending with 0.449 or lower will be rounded down to the nearest integer

This rule will be strictly enforced with all grades **except** the following: 49%, 59%, 69%, 79%. If the first two digits of a student's grade tabulates to any of the above, the prof reserves the right to impose some increased subjectivity in the final rounding.

h) Lecture material, audio recordings and intellectual property

Please note that the lecture presentations and course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor. The distribution, transmission, reproduction or re-posting of the NFS 302 lecture materials, including audio recordings in whole or in part, is **NOT permitted** without the consent of the instructor. All students enrolled in NFS302 are permitted to use the material for personal study. Please check with the professor re: permission for audio recordings of the lecture for personal use. Students are NOT permitted to post these audio files in any other location, except personal and private online repositories, without the permission of the course instructor. Students found in violation of this will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

i) Academic Integrity

Students are expected to conduct themselves with academic integrity. The Code of Behaviour clearly describes activities that are considered academic misconduct:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

Students are urged to regularly review the code as ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:
<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>