

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 2313S

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 18:

Add new course, ECON 242, Economics of Food

Effective Date: Fall 2013

1. Add: On page 122, new course ECON 242, Economics of Food:

242 Economics of Food (3)

An introduction to the theory of the production and consumption of food. Topics include the role of agricultural and food policy in domestic and international food markets, food aid, the economics of food security, consumer behavior around food purchasing, the economics of obesity, challenges associated with building a sustainable food system, and world food problems such as famines and perpetually repressed agricultural productivity. Even years Fall.

Impact: The course has been taught three times as a special topics course, one consequence of which has been reducing the frequency of offering of ECON 245, Land Economics. Thus, adding Economics of Food as a permanent part of the curriculum will have no adverse impact on the departmental resources. The course is part of ILS Cluster 9, "Food for Thought: Engaging the Citizen in the Science and Politics of Food Information, Food Consumerism, Nutrition and Health." It will formally add an elective course to the major, and a course without prerequisites for non-majors.

Rationale: This course has been a popular offering, regularly filling up during pre-registration. As part of the Food for Thought Cluster, the course has attracted many students who would not otherwise be exposed to Economics (such as majors in Health and Wellness). However, students enrolling in the course to complete their cluster have always represented a minority of enrollment in the course. Most students who take the course are Environmental Studies or Economics majors seeking an additional elective to complete their major or minor in Economics. This course thus provides a diverse group of students an additional elective option in the curriculum while contributing to students' economic literacy around food and food systems.