

Food & Culture

ANT 3467

Summer 2019

3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Aaron M. Ellrich	Email: ellricham@ufl.edu
Lecture Meeting Times: Monday-Friday, Period 5, 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Lecture Location: Turlington Hall (TUR) L011
Office: Turlington Hall, Room B335	Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30 & Thursday 11:30 - 12:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Food is an integral part of human life and remains a significant anthropological subject due to the connections that lie between food, culture, and society. This course explores humanity's relationship with food through time and in different geographical settings. Throughout the semester we will be examining classic anthropological works alongside contemporary studies of modern food systems. Among the topics to be examined are: how food habits develop and change as a result of cultural interaction; the ways in which power, labor, class, and gender are (re)shaped around food and food production; food consumption and embodiment; ritual and religious uses of food; globalization and food activism; and the marketing of food through media outlets.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Food and Culture: A Reader, 2019, (4th ed.), C., Counihan, E. P. Van, E. P., and A. Julier (eds.). New York: Routledge. (abbreviated below as FC). An ebook is available through UF's Smithers Library.

The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating: A Reader, 2005, (2nd ed.), J. Watson and M. Caldwell (eds.). Malden, MA: Blackwell. (abbreviated below as CP).

OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This is not a survey of food around the world, nor is it a forum for proselytizing or critiquing eating decisions or *disorders*. Overall, the class will include a combination of lectures, films/video clips, three quizzes, two short essays, and two exams. By taking this course students will develop the skills and knowledge base to:

- ✓ Explain the relationship between anthropology, food, and culture;
- ✓ Describe the importance of food through time and its impacts on culture and society;
- ✓ Identify and explain correlations between food, power, gender, and class;
- ✓ Describe and explain how food actively constructs social relationships and identities;
- ✓ Identify and explain the relationship between food, consumption, and the media.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Read the assigned readings (both in the textbook and the additional readings uploaded to Canvas) before the lecture on the topic. Many students get lost during lectures when they are not familiar with the basic concepts behind the materials presented during lectures.

Pay attention and take notes during class lectures. A surefire way to remember the information presented is to write it down. Not only does this help you remember the materials, it also provides you with quick reference material for studying for the quizzes and preparing for exams.

Don't hesitate to ask questions. Questions in class can lead to good discussions that enhance your and your peers' understanding of the materials being discussed. Additionally, don't hesitate to email the instructor and stop in during office hours if you are having difficulty grasping the course materials. This is the best way to clarify any concepts that cause you difficulty.

Submit your assignments in a timely fashion (i.e., on time). Start your assignments early! Waiting until the last minute results in stress over the assignment as well as lower quality work. Use your time wisely and get the most out of your effort.

COURSE FORMAT AND GRADING

This course involves five weekly lectures that introduce and discuss in detail the course materials. It is imperative that you attend lecture sessions as attendance makes up a good portion of your final grade. Attendance will be taken each day via a sign-in sheet. Additionally, there will be three in-class quizzes, two short essay assignments, and two take home exams (one mid-term and one final).

Quizzes (3 total) will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. These will focus on material covered in the *required* readings (see reading assignments below). Quizzes will be promptly distributed at the beginning of the class and run for 15 minutes. There are no makeup quizzes unless the student provides adequate reason/documentation for missing the quiz (see attendance).

Short essays (2 total) will focus on a weekly topic and must be 3-5 pages in length. Weekly topics that are up for selection are Weeks 1-5. It is left to the student to select their topic – the instructor will not be assigning weekly topics – and each essay must draw from the *required* readings assigned for the week selected (see reading/assignments below).

The first essay *must be* from a topic within Weeks 1-3 and the second *must be* a topic within Weeks 3-5 (Week 3, Consumption and Embodiment, is neutral ground and can be selected for either of the two essays. However, students can only write about Week 3 ONE TIME).

Short essays must draw from the required readings and *SHOULD NOT BE SUMMARIES* (if they are summaries, POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED). Rather, short essays should be a critical assessment of the readings. A critical assessment includes examining strengths and weaknesses of the author(s) work as well as where and how the readings overlap and/or diverge from one another. Students should attempt to address each required reading for the weeks they select. Citing comments or points made during lectures is permitted but overall the focus of each essay should lie within the required readings and draw from the supplemental readings. A tip for this assignment is to turn the weekly topic and lecture theme (see below) for the selected week into a question – this helps to avoid summarizing the readings.

*Late papers will be deducted 10 points per day and **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** after 3 days.

Exams (mid-term and final) will be take-home. The structure of each exam will be a combination of how quizzes and short essays are framed: multiple-choice, short answer, and an essay question. The only difference is the instructor will provide a set of questions on the essay portion of each exam for students to select from.

Grades are assigned based on attendance and participation in the lecture, three quizzes, two critical essays, and two take-home exams:

- ✓ Class attendance/participation: 10%
- ✓ In-Class quizzes (total of 3): 20%
- ✓ Critical essays (total of 2): 30%
- ✓ Mid-term exam: 20%
- ✓ Final exam: 20%

Letter grades are assigned according to the following grading scale:

A = 94% - 100%	C = 73% - 76%
A- = 90% - 93%	C- = 70% - 72%
B+ = 87% - 89%	D+ = 67% - 69%
B = 83% - 86%	D = 63% - 66%
B- = 80% - 82%	D- = 60% - 62%
C+ = 77% - 79%	E = Below 60%

Concerns about grades must be addressed promptly. Any errors found in a graded assignment or exam must be brought to the attention of the instructor or teaching assistant ASAP. The UF grading policy can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS*

**Disclaimer: This schedule is subject to change if the need arises. Any changes will be announced in advance during class time as well as on the course Canvas site.*

Key: Food & Culture (FC) | The Cultural Politics of Food & Eating (CP) | E-Learning (EL)

WEEK 1: MAY 13-17

Topic: Introduction & Foundations – Food & Culture

Lecture: Historical/ Archaeological Perspectives | Commensality, Gifts, & Manners

Required Readings

- ✓ Mintz, S., & Du Bois, C. “The Anthropology of Food and Eating” (EL)
- ✓ Fox, R. “Food and Eating: An Anthropological Perspective” (EL)
- ✓ Levi-Strauss, C. “The Culinary Triangle” (FC)
- ✓ Douglas, M. “Deciphering a Meal” (FC)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Julier, A., Counihan, C., & van Esterik, P. “Introduction” (FC)
- ✓ Watson, J., & Caldwell, M. “Introduction” (CP)
- ✓ Harris, M. “The Abominable Pig” (EL)

WEEK 2: MAY 20-24

Topic: Food & Power – Labor, Class, & Gender

Lecture: Hegemony & Food Industries | Food Roles & Subjugation

Required Readings

- ✓ Mintz, S. “Time, Sugar, and Sweetness” (FC)

- ✓ Allison, A. “Japanese Mothers and *Obentos*: The Lunch-Box as Ideological State Apparatus” (FC)
- ✓ Roseberry, W. “The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States” (CP)
- ✓ Blanchette, A. “Living Waste and the Labor of Toxic Health on American Factory Farms” (EL)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Barndt, D. “On the Move for Food: Three Women Behind the Tomato’s Journey” (FC)
- ✓ Avakian, A. “Shish Kebab Armenians? Food and the Construction and Maintenance of Ethnic and Gender Identities among Armenian American Feminists” (EL)
- ✓ Ives, S. “Farming the South African ‘Bush’: Ecologies of Belonging and Exclusion in Rooibos Tea” (EL)
- ✓ Forth, C. “Fat, Desire and Disgust in the Colonial Imagination” (EL)

Heads up: Quiz on Friday

WEEK 3: MAY 28-31 (No Class on May 27th due to Holiday)

Topic: Consumption & Embodiment

Lecture: Identity & Ritual | Phenomenology & the Body

Required Readings

- ✓ Barthes, R. “Toward a Psychosociology of Contemporary Food Consumption” (FC)
- ✓ Walsh, D. “The Nature of Food: Indigenous Dene Foodways and Ontologies in the Era of Climate Change” (EL)
- ✓ Marshall, D. “Food as Ritual, Routine or Convention?” (EL)
- ✓ Sparks, S. “Rice for the Ancestors: Food Offerings, Kinship and Merit among the Isan of Northeast Thailand” (EL)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Holtzman, J. “Food and Memory” (EL)
- ✓ Korsmeyer, C. & Sutton, D. “The Sensory Experience of Food” (EL)
- ✓ Bagelman, J. et. al. “Feasting for Change: Reconnecting with Food, Place and Culture” (EL)
- ✓ Potts, A., & Parry, J. “Vegan Sexuality: Challenging Heteronormative Masculinity through Meat-free Sex” (EL)

Heads up: Quiz on Friday

Heads up: Essay #1 due Friday May 31st

WEEK 4: JUNE 3-7

Topic: Food & Globalization

Lecture: Foodscapes & Exchange | Prosumption & Authenticity

Required Readings

- ✓ Goody, J. “Industrial Food: Towards the Development of World Cuisine” (FC)
- ✓ Caldwell, M. “Domesticating the French Fry” (CP)

- ✓ Terrio, S. “Crafting Grand Cru Chocolates in Contemporary France” (CP)
- ✓ Matejowsky, T. “Jolly Dogs and McSpaghetti: Anthropological Reflections on Global/Local Fast-Food Competition in the Philippines” (FC)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Ritzer, G., and Jurgenson, N. “Production, Consumption, Prosumption” (EL)
- ✓ Bestor, T. “How Sushi Went Global” (CP)
- ✓ Renne, E. “Mass Producing Food Traditions for West Africans Abroad” (EL)
- ✓ MacKendrick, N. “Foodscape” (EL)

Heads up: Mid-Term Exam

WEEK 5: JUNE 10-14

Topic: Food & Politics

Lecture: Political Economy of Food | Food Wars & Eating Organic

Required Readings

- ✓ Nonini, D. “The Local-Food Movement and the Anthropology of Global Systems” (EL)
- ✓ Paarlberg, R. “The Global Food Fight” (CP)
- ✓ Belasco, W. “Food and the Counterculture: A Story of Bread and Politics” (CP)
- ✓ Clark, D. “The Raw and the Rotten: Punk Cuisine” (FC)
- ✓ Beriss, D, & Sutton, D. “Restaurants, Ideal Postmodern Institutions” (EL)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Erikson, P. “A-Whaling We Will Go: Encounters of Knowledge and Memory at the Makah Cultural and Research Center” (EL)
- ✓ Adams, R. “Local and Organic Food Movements” (EL)
- ✓ Moberg, M. “Certification and Neoliberal Governance: Moral Economies of Fair Trade in the Eastern Caribbean” (EL)
- ✓ Flannery, E. & Mincyte, D. “Food as Power” (EL)

Heads up: Quiz on Friday

WEEK 6: JUNE 17-21

Topic: Food & Media

Lecture: Image(UN)making & Food Ideology | You Are What You Eat

Required Readings

- ✓ Miller, D. “Coca-Cola: A Black Sweet Drink from Trinidad” (CP)
- ✓ Abbar, S., et al. “You Tweet What You Eat: Studying Food Consumption through Twitter” (EL)
- ✓ Zoran, A., & Coelho, M.” Cornucopia: The Concept of Digital Gastronomy” (EL)
- ✓ Ray, K. “Domesticating Cuisine: Food and Aesthetics on American Television” (EL)

Supplemental Readings

- ✓ Stajcic, N. “Understanding Culture: Food as a Means of Communication” (EL)

- ✓ Newbury, M. “Fast Zombie/Slow Zombie: Food Writing, Horror Movies, and Agribusiness Apocalypse” (EL)
- ✓ Himmelgreen, D. “You Are What You Eat and You Eat What You Are: The Role of Nutritional Anthropology in Public Health Nutrition and Nutrition Education” (EL)
- ✓ Brady, J. “Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes: Problems and Perils throughout the World” (EL)

Heads up: Essay #2 due by Monday, June 17th

Heads up: Final Exam

E-LEARNING, EMAIL, AND OFFICE HOURS

In this course we will be using the Canvas system. The login page for Canvas can be found at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>. Once logged in you should see this course (ANT 3620) listed in your course menu. On the course page you will find various resources such as the syllabus, additional readings (in the Files folder), homework assignments, and course announcements. As this page will be updated throughout the semester, and general announcements will be made here, you are responsible for regularly checking this site. If you encounter any issues related to Canvas, contact the UF Helpdesk by email or phone: helpdesk@ufl.edu; (352) 392-4357.

Email is the most efficient option for contacting the instructor and teaching assistants for this course. Per UF policy you should only contact the instructor and assistants using your Gatorlink email; *DO NOT* use the email or comments functions in Canvas to contact them, these will not be responded to. General considerations for email contact:

Please allow a 24-hour response time to any emails sent, and expect these responses between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday.

Prior to asking a question, refer to the syllabus to ensure the answer to your question is not listed there.

Always include the subject and course number in the subject line of the email.

Always be polite and *professional* (i.e., use full sentence structure, proper spelling, etc.) in your emails. If you have questions or concerns about the course materials you are encouraged to meet with the instructor or your teaching assistant during office hours rather than via email. Face-to-face meetings over course materials are much more efficient in addressing these sorts of concerns.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a necessary component of this course. There is a lot of material covered in the assigned readings (both in the textbook and in additional readings) that will be covered and *expanded on* in lectures. It is your responsibility to attend these lectures in order to gain a thorough understanding of the materials, as you will be tested on them. Additionally, attendance will be taken during every lecture session throughout the semester. During lectures this will take the form of a sign-in sheet. You are allowed *one unexcused/voluntary* absence. In the case of involuntary absences (i.e., for medical reasons, emergencies, etc.) they will be excused *only* if they are certifiable/documentated. In these cases, you must provide the instructor or your teaching assistant with documentation.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

In the lecture sessions it is your responsibility to maintain a respectful modicum of behavior towards your instructor and teaching assistant as well as your peers. Disrespectful and disruptive behaviors will

not be tolerated. These behaviors include discussions among classmates (unless allotted time to do so), text messaging, talking on cell phones, eating, browsing the internet, late arrivals, and early departures. *CELL PHONES MUST BE SILENCED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.* Technologies such as laptops and tablets are permitted for *NOTE-TAKING PURPOSES ONLY*. If you exhibit these or any other disruptive behaviors during class time you will be asked to leave and will be marked as having an unexcused absence for that day.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Make-up exams/quizzes will *ONLY* be allowed for those persons able to provide certifiable documentation of an involuntary absence. Additionally, students in need of modification of the due dates for assignments and/or exams for religious reasons (i.e., holiday observances) should contact the instructor at the beginning of the term so that alternative arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

Any student requesting accommodations for disabilities *must* register with the Dean of Students Office (DSO) and Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DSO will provide the necessary documentation to the student, who is then responsible for providing this documentation to the instructor in order to request accommodation. This *must* be done at the beginning of the term, prior to any submission or due date of assignments, as accommodations *are not* retroactive. The Disability Resource Center is located in Reid Hall, Room 101. For further information or assistance visit the DRC or their website: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>.

The University of Florida additionally offers several counseling and academic assistance services to students that are available throughout the semester:

- *The Counseling and Wellness Center (located on Radio Road; (352) 392-1575) offers personal counseling, career counseling, and health care;
- *The Reading and Writing Center (located in SW Broward Hall; (352) 392-2010) offers test preparation assistance, study skill development, and writing assistance;
- *The Career Resource Center (located in the Reitz Union; (352) 392-1601) offers job counseling and career development assistance.

For other services that the University of Florida offers its students visit <http://www.ufl.edu>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

University policy on academic honesty will be enforced in cases where cheating or plagiarism occurs. All students are expected to abide by the University of Florida's Student Honor Code: "We, the members of the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." The following is implied on all work submitted for credit in this course: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." More information on the student honor code and the university policy can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any sort will result in a zero grade for that assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in a zero (or 'E') for the entire course grade and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. This is in accordance with the policies as listed by the Dean of Students Office: <https://dso.ufl.edu/>.

COURSE EVALUATION

All students are expected to provide feedback on the content, quality, and instruction of the course in the form of online evaluation forms. These forms are available during the final weeks of each semester and students will be notified through both email and course announcements as soon as they are available. The forms are available at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>.