

Food and Culture  
Anthropology 3467, sec. 08bf  
Spring 2013

Dr. Susan D. deFrance  
1112 Turlington  
Office hours: Tuesday 2-3:30 pm  
Thursday 2-3:30 p.m. and by appt.

## FOOD AND CULTURE

### Required Texts

**Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, editors**

2013 *Food and Culture: A Reader*. THIRD EDITION Routledge Press.

\*\*\* on syllabus as F&C

**James L. Watson and Melissa L. Caldwell, editors**

2005 *The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating: a Reader*. Blackwell Publishing.

\*\*\* on syllabus as CPFE

Additional readings will be available as pdf files on the course e-learning site.

\*\*\* on syllabus as UFe-I

### Course Objectives

All ideas, beliefs, and rules regarding food are cultural; they are learned behavior. Food is a universal, yet highly diverse, feature of the human condition. Foodways function to create social unity, but also to distinguish cultures. How and why do cultures develop unique methods of food preparation and consumption? How do food rules develop and how are they maintained? The goal of this class is to gain an understanding of foodways in different cultures and how food habits function beyond providing calories and sustenance. We use information from biological anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and human ecology to understand the historical development of foodways and modern cultural variation in food habits in different areas of the world. We also examine issues related to modern disparities in health and nutrition in light of globalization and the political factors that result in differential production and access to food resources.

### Student Learning Outcomes

- Know the evolutionary and biological basis of human diet
- Identify the historical development of food habits and consequences of global colonization
- Recognize cultural origins and rationales for food prohibitions
- Describe modern cultural obstacles to food selection and the resulting health consequences
- Analyze the role of modern political systems on food production, distribution, and consumption

## Course Requirements and Assessments

### CEL PHONES TO OFF – NO TEXTING, CLASS COMPUTER USE ONLY

Students who disregard cell phone policy will be asked to leave class.

### *Attendance*

Attendance is required, but is not recorded. There are 6 unannounced quizzes that count toward your grade. Students not in attendance will not be allowed to enter the class only to take quizzes.

Lecture PowerPoints are NOT posted on elearning.

### *Grading*

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Quizzes (6 quizzes, lowest one dropped, 5 @ 3% each)<br>unannounced in-class<br>(no makeups without documentation for approved absences)   | 15            |
| Foreign Food Film Review (on approved film list) 4/9   | 10            |
| Three Food and Culture Exercises (5% each)<br>Due Feb 5, Feb. 26, March 19   | 15            |
| Extra Credit – can do up to 2 additional Food and Culture<br>Exercises (2.5% each)   |               |
| Exams- 2 in class (with take-home essays) 2/7, 3/21<br>In-class and essay portion = 50% each<br>Essays are due 2/12, 3/26 at start of class<br>Use Turnitin to submit essays<br>NO LATE essays accepted  | 40 (20% each) |
| Final exam - April (non-cumulative) 4/23<br>Take home essay distributed last class, due at exam time<br>Final essays <b>are due on 4/30-9:20 am</b><br>Use Turnitin to submit final essay answer<br>Final essays can be turned in ahead of time. | 20            |

### **Grading scale:**

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>A = 92-100</b>    | <b>C = 72-77.00</b>  |
| <b>A- = 90-91.99</b> | <b>C- = 70-71.99</b> |
| <b>B+ = 88-89.99</b> | <b>D+ = 68-69.99</b> |
| <b>B = 82-87.99</b>  | <b>D = 62-67.99</b>  |
| <b>B- = 80-81.99</b> | <b>D- = 60-61.99</b> |
| <b>C+ = 78-79.99</b> | <b>E = &lt;60</b>    |

UF grading policy: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/grades.html#grading>

Students are required to follow the UF honor code. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

PLAGARISIM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU PLAGARIZE SOURCES, I WILL FILE A FORMAL GRIEVANCE WITH THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE FOR JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AND IT WILL BECOME PART OF YOUR PERMANENT RECORD. YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT.

**NO makeup exams or quizzes** will be administered and no late assignments will be accepted without a signed excuse for medical illness or documentation for absence (such as a family death notice). If you will be away from campus on official university business, you must make arrangements in advance.

No LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted without documentation (as specified above).

#### ***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities***

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Please make any requests by the second week of class.**

#### ***UF Counseling Services***

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](#) (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

| Date          | Topic  | Readings   |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Week 1</b> |  |  |
| Jan. 8        | <b>Introduction</b>  |  |
| Jan. 10       | Defining Foodways  | Mead in F&C<br>Counihan and Van Esterik in F&C<br>Farb and Armelagos on UFe-1          |
| <b>Week 2</b> |  |  |
| Jan. 15, 17   | <b>Human Evolution and Diet</b>  |  |
|               | Meat Consumption and Brain Development                                 |  |
|               | Teeth: Evolution and Function  |  |
|               | Scavenging vs. Hunting   | O'Connell, Hawkes, and Jones UFe-1   |
|               | The Role of Fire and Tools   | Blumenshine UFe-1<br>Early fire – Bower on UF e-1<br>Neanderthal diet- Guzik on UF e-1 |
| <b>Week 3</b> |  |  |
| Jan. 22, 24   | <b>The Archaeology of Foodways</b>                                     |  |
|               | Hunter/Gatherers and Foragers  | Rick, Erlandson, and Vellanoweth UFe-1   |
|               | Food Production and Domestication                                      | Van der veen UFe-1   |
|               | Food to Feed Ancient Civilizations                                     | Gummerman UFe-1  |
| <b>Week 4</b> |  |  |
| Jan. 29, 31   | <b>European Colonization, Food Migrations and their Legacy</b>         |  |
|               | Chocolate, Potatoes  | Terrio in CPFE<br>Potato chapter UFe-1   |
| <b>Week 5</b> |  |  |
| Feb. 5        | Sugar  | Mintz in F&C<br>Levenstein; Poe UFe-1  |
|               | Big Sugar  | Roseberry in CPFE  |
| Feb. 7        | <b>EXAM 1 in-class and take home essay distributed</b>                 |  |
|               | Essay = 50% of grade   |  |
|               | <b>Essay answer is due Feb. 12 at the start of class, 12:50 pm</b>     |  |
|               | Submit answer via Turnitin on elearning                                |  |
| <b>Week 6</b> |  |  |
| Feb. 12       | <b>Food and Cognition - Dietary Taboos/Restrictions, Contamination</b> |  |
|               | Irrational Behavior vs. Human Adaptation                               |  |
|               | Sacred Cows, Prohibited Pork   | Harris in F&C;<br>Gillette in CPFE   |
|               | Jewish Dietary Laws – guest lecture – David Markus                     |  |
|               | <b>Essay answer is due Feb. 12 at the start of class, 12:50 pm</b>     |  |

Feb. 14

**Cannibalism- Fact and Fiction**

See reading “The Edible Dead” at

Jones et al. UFe-1

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/ba59/feat1.shtml>

**Week 7**

Feb. 19, 21

**Food and Identity**

Cuisines and Meal Structure

Douglas; Levi-Strauss in F&C

Barthes; Bourdieu; Carrington in F&C

Yasmeen in F&C; Sutton in F&C

Siskind UFe-1

Feb. 21

**Food and Identity**

Gender and Food

Williams-Forson in F&C

Holden in F&C; Swenson in F&C

Counihan in F&C;

**Week 8**

Feb. 26, 28

**Secular and Religious Rituals**

Food and Ritual

Bynum in F&C;

Feasting, Fasting

Read rules regarding Ramandan fasting and

Guest Lecture – religious fasting Catholic Fasting statement on UFe-1

**Week 9**

March 5,7

NO CLASS UF Spring Break (have an unusual food experience)

**Week 10**

March 12, 14

**Cultural Variation in Body Form- Why some cultures value fat**

Fat in Island Cultures

Bordo in F&C; Parasecoli in F&C

Body Form and Health

O’Connor in F&C; Julier in F&C

The Obesity Epidemic

Wangsgaard Thompson UFe-1

**Week 11**

March 19

**Food and Health**

Guest lecture – Dr. Sarah Szurek

Nabhan in F&C; Albritton in F&C

Poppendieck in F&C; Van Eserik in F&C

Hadley and Patil Ufe-1

Sherman and Billing UFe-1

March 21

**EXAM 2 in-class portion and take-home essay distributed**

Essay = 25% of grade

Essay answer is due March 26 at the start of class, 12:50 pm

Submit essay answer via Turnitin

**Week 12**

March 26

Commodities from Latin America

Pilcher in CPFE

What is Fair Trade

Dickinson UFe-1

**Essay answer is due March 26 at the start of class, 12:50 pm**

**Submit essay answer via Turnitin**

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| March 28 | Pets vs. Food in South America | Massara in F&C<br>Goldfrank in CPFE<br>deFrance on UF e-l |
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| <b>Week 13</b> | <b>Food Security – focus on Africa, Politics and Food</b> |                   |
| April 2        | Africa  | Freidberg in CPFE |

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| April 4 | Africa<br>Zimbabwe case study | Hughes in F&C |
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| <b>Week 14</b> | <b>Population Expansion and Food</b>               |                |
| April 9        | China and Food Security<br>Japan and Food Identity | Miller in CPFE |

**4/9 FOOD FILM REVIEW DUE AT START OF CLASS TIME**  
**Use Turnitin on elearning – due 4/9 at 11:45 am**

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| April 11 | Fast Food in Asia<br>Effects on Health and Culture | Allison in F&C;<br>Heldke in F&C, Cerrarini in F&C<br>Miller in CPFE; Watson in CPFE<br>Yan in CPFE; Lozada in CPFE |
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| <b>Week 15</b> | <b>Food and Political Economy:</b> | Subsidies, Food Aid, Commodities<br>Schlosser, Pilcher, Clapp F&C<br>Watson and Caldwell Intro. to CPFE<br>Paarlberg in CPFE; Brownell in CPFE<br>Feeding the cities FAO on UFe-l |
| April 16       |                                    |   |

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| April 18 | <b>Course Summary</b> | Fitchen in F&C; Belasco in CPFE<br>Phillips in CPFE; Ritvo in CPFE |
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| <b>Week 16</b> |  |  |
| April 23       | In class exam – non-cumulative<br><b>TAKE HOME FINAL ESSAY DISTRIBUTED</b> |  |

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|------------------|---|--|
| <b>Exam Week</b> |   |  |
| April 30         | <b>Tuesday, April 30 9:30 a.m.</b><br><b>TAKE HOME ESSAY DUE AT 9:30 am Tuesday, 4/30</b><br><b>(NO Late papers accepted)</b><br><b>Use Turnitin on elearning to turn in final essay when completed</b><br><b>(emailed answers will be given a 0)</b> |  |