

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York  
Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences

HNS 712X Cultural Aspects of Food 45 hours, 3 credits  
Spring Semester 2007

Class time: Monday 6:20- 9:00 p.m.

Professor: Annie Hauck-Lawson, Ph.D., R.D.

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Monday 12:15-12:45, Thursday 12:15- 2:45 p.m. (except 3/15 & 5/10 when alternate hours will be held and posted)

Course Description: Foodways, the study of relationships of food and culture. Ethnic, geographic, economic, social, religious influences on food habits and practices of individuals and families.

Prerequisite: a course in food science or nutrition or permission of the chairperson.

Required readings, done before class meetings, from reading packet purchased at library copy center (reading assignments are listed on a separate sheet). Weekly reading of the 'Dining Out' section from each Wednesday's New York Times, with special emphasis on articles pertaining to cultural aspects of food.

The course is grounded in the theory and application of foodways, the study of relationships of food and culture.

Course objectives-

Upon completion of the course, students should be able:

- to be aware of the interrelationships of food and culture
- to discern societal factors that impact on people's food behaviors, including geographic, ethnic, economic, social, religious, etc. factors
- to identify food as a communicative tool, i.e. the food voice
- to identify academic resources for foodways studies

## Course Schedule

Session #1 1/29

\* Cultural Aspects of Food Introduction

Session #2 2/5

\* The Food Voice: Food as a Channel of Communication and Identity

Session #3 2/15

\* Food Sustainability, the Slow Food movement, Slow University

Session #4 2/21 (Wednesday)

\* Food & Gender: Women and Food; Masculinities and Food

Session #5 2/26

\* Research resources in food studies

Session #6 3/5

\* Immigration and Foodways / Foodways and Ethnicity

Session #7 3/12

- Cross cultural egg symbolism
- Pisanki workshop

Session #8 3/19

\* Midterm examination

Session #9 3/26

\* Food Traditions

Session #10 4/16

Visual Media in viewing food:

Food Museums and Exhibits, Food and Film

Session #11 4/23

\* Culinary History

Session # 12 4/30

\* Food, Self & Identity/Food memoir

Session #13 5/7

\*Brooklyn's food resources / Imagining Brooklyn

Session #14 5/14

\* Research Methodology: Focus on one foodstuff as a window onto five cultures

Final Examination 5/21

#### Grading

Midterm Examination	40%
Final Examination	40%
Papers and research assignments	20%
Total	100%

#### Course Requirements-

Punctual class attendance and participation.

Assigned readings completed in advance of class so students are prepared for discussion of the topic at hand.

Weekly reading of the Wednesday 'Dining Out' section of the New York Times in advance of class meetings in preparation for discussion.

A midterm and final examination, and assigned exercises

Reading assignments are listed on a separate sheet. Reading packets are available in two sets at Far Better copy center on Hillel Place and Campus Road.