

# **Anthropological Methods in Food Studies:**

an inter (sub) disciplinary approach  
ANT s310L, 82135 – Summer 2012  
Monday through Friday 1:00-2:30  
SAC 5.172

## **Instructor Information:**

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## **I. Course Description:**

Food is a perfect example of cultural text, which can be read in interdisciplinary ways to learn more about the culture in question. In this course we will address popular themes in food studies and the most common methods by which anthropologists study them. We will, in turn, focus on each of the four sub-disciplines of anthropology and how they utilize their respective methodologies to study foodways. Our primary focus will be identity and how linguistic anthropologists, cultural anthropologists, archaeologists and physical anthropologists incorporate different methodologies for studying foodways in order to determine certain aspects of cultural identity.

## **II. Course Aims and Objectives:**

In this course we will explore the four sub-fields of anthropology and how each use differing methods to study foodways and extrapolate facets of identity. By the end of this course, you should be able to identify overlapping or intertwining methods of exploring foodways and be able to use these methods to either analyze a current food-related issue using anthropological methods and research or write a proposal for anthropological field research using methods and theory discussed in class.

## **III. Required Texts**

- Miller, Jeff and Deutsch, Jonathan. 2009. Food Studies: An Introduction to Research Methods. Berg Publishers.
  - ISBN – 9781845206819

- MacBeth, Helen and Jeremy MacClancy. 2004. Researching Food Habits: Methods and Problems. Berghan Books.
  - ISBN - 1571815457

## IV. Assignments, Assessment and Evaluation:

### Assignments

**1. Weekly Quizzes** – 5 total (no cumulative final) – each worth 13% (13 points each, 65% total) – these are held every Friday. These will cover major methods, terms, key people and ideas from lecture; major points from the film or guest lecturer or field trip. We will review for the first half of each Friday.

**2. Paper** - Due on last day of class – 25% total (see rubric and grading breakdown)

- You will write a 5-10 page research proposal incorporating 2-3 sub-disciplines of anthropology

Prepare a research proposal for anthropological fieldwork to help solve one of the current problems/current topics we discussed in class. Use theory and methods from this course. Use your text, Food Studies, to help you understand how to write this proposal. I will also post an example on Blackboard under 'Assignments'.

- This will be turned in a little at a time. You will hand in the following:
  - Topic and thesis sentence – **due Friday of week 3** – 5 points
  - Outline and sources – **due Friday of week 4** – 5 points (If you would like general feedback on a draft of your paper, please submit it by this date as well)
  - Paper – **due Friday of week 5** – 15 points

**3. Participation** – 10% (ask questions of our guest lecturers and bring topics for Thursday's discussions)

- Every Thursday I expect you guys to bring some interesting article or newsbyte or question that reflects current events regarding food - preferably in a way that is pertinent to that week's discipline. I will also bring some ideas and we will have a conversation about them. This is pertinent to your final paper.
- While I do not intend to take up class time with taking attendance, you will not be successful in this course if you are not present. I do not post my slides online, as they do not represent my lecture in its entirety.
- Films and guest lectures will be part of the weekly quizzes. Attendance and participation are necessary. Please plan accordingly. I do hope that you will participate with feedback from course material and with questions regarding lectures, films and readings. This is expected to be a small class so we should have time for meaningful discussions. I do expect that you will pay attention during films and guest lecturers and have thoughtful questions and/or comments to share with us afterward.

### Daily Breakdown

(lectures subject to change)

### Week 1 – Introduction

Readings:

1. **Food Studies Text** – Chapters 1 & 2 (p. 3-32)
2. **Researching Food Habits** – Intro & 5 (p. 1-12; 63-74)
3. **Blackboard Chapter:** Douglas (2pgs.)
4. **Blackboard Chapter:** Belasco Ch. 1 & 2 p. (1-13; 15-24)

Lecture Topics:

- Monday** – What is Anthropology? Origins of Anthropological Food Studies, Structuralism  
**Tuesday** – How do anthropologists study Identity?  
**Wednesday** – Summary of the 4 subfields (intro to each)  
**Thursday** – Current Issues with Food and Identity  
**Friday** – Review and Quiz

## Week 2 - Physical Anthropology

Readings:

1. **Blackboard Chapter:** Cohen – Health and the Rise of Civilization
2. **Blackboard Chapter:** Food Preferences and Taste: Continuity and Change – Ch. 5 – Good Taste and Bad Taste - Schiefenhoel (p. 55-64)
3. **Blackboard Chapter:** Food Preferences and Taste: Continuity and Change – Ch. 6 – Disgust – Rozin, et al. (p. 65-80)
4. **Researching Food Habits** – Chapter 7 (p. 87-97)

Lecture Topics:

- Monday** – Physical Anthro Introduction: Identity – are you what you eat?, Short Film  
**Tuesday** – Methods for Physical Anthropology & Intro to Genetics  
**Wednesday** – Guest Lecturer: Rick Smith – *Farming, Feasting, and Famine: The Impacts of Foodways on Human Population Genetics*.  
**Thursday** – Current Topics, Film  
**Friday** – Review and Quiz

## Week 3 – Archaeology

Readings:

1. **Food Studies Text** – Chapter 8 and 8a (p. 177-197)
2. **Blackboard Article:** The Archeological Dimension of Soul Food – Maria Franklin (from *Race and the Archaeology of Identity*, Orser, 2001)
3. **Food Studies Text** – Ch. 6 and 6a (p. 101-136)

Lecture Topics:

- Monday** – Intro to Archaeology and Identity  
**Tuesday** – Identity, Material Culture, Methods and VAC field trip  
**Wednesday** - Guest Lecturer: Robyn Dodge - TBA  
**Thursday** – Film and Current Topics Discussion  
**Friday** – Review and Quiz – Topic and Thesis Statement Due

## Week 4 – Socio/Cultural and Cultural Forms

Readings:

1. **Food Studies** - Chapters 7 and 7a (p. 137-176)
2. **Food Habits** – Chapters 4 & 14 (p. 55-61; 181-191)
3. **Blackboard Chapter** – Difference on the Menu – Wilk (The Globalization of Food p. 185-194)

Lectures:

- Monday** – Culture and Identity, Political Economy, Cultural Forms  
**Tuesday** – Identity Performance, Film – Fast Food Women  
**Wednesday** – Methods: Ethnography and Participant Observation  
**Thursday** – Current Topics and Film  
**Friday** – Review and Quiz – Outline and Works Cited Due

## Week 5 – Linguistic Anthropology

### Readings:

1. **Blackboard Chapter:** Greene and Cramer – Beyond Mere Sustenance (p. ix-xvii)
2. **Blackboard Chapter:** Duranti (p. 88-105)
3. **Food Studies:** “Narrative Research” (p. 158 – 168)

### Lectures:

- Monday –** Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology and Structuralism  
**Tuesday –** Identity: Speech Community Ethnography of Symbolic Communication (Eating)  
**Wednesday –** Film  
**Thursday –** Current Topics  
**Friday –** Review and Quiz – Final Paper Due

## V. Daily Work at a Glance – Quick Reference

(subject to minor changes) See “Daily Breakdown” in the above syllabus for more info.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1 – July 9-13 Introduction</b>	Lecture – What is Anthropology  Film short – Bugs for Breakfast	Lecture – Identity  <b>Readings Due:</b> FS- Ch. 1&2	Lecture- Subfields  <b>Readings Due:</b> FH- Intro & 5 BB – Douglas PDF	Lecture – Current Topics  Film – Meaning of Food (part)  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB – Belasco, Ch.1, 2.	Review & Quiz
<b>Week 2 – July 16-21 Physical</b>	Lecture – Physical Anthro Intro  <b>Film</b> –A Crash Course in WH – Ag Rev.  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB - Cohen	Lecture– Identity And Methods, Genetics  <b>Readings Due:</b> FH – Ch. 7	Guest Lecture – Methods Rick Smith  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB – Schiefenhovel	Lecture- Current Topics  Film – Did Cooking Make Us Human? (BBC Horizon)  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB - Rozin et al	Review & Quiz
<b>Week 3 – July 23-27 Archaeology</b>	Lecture – Archaeology Intro  <b>Readings Due:</b> FS Ch. 8 & 8a	Lecture– Identity  Walk to VAC – art  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB – Franklin	Guest Lecture – Methods Robyn Dodge  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE  <b>Readings Due:</b> FS –Ch 6 & 6a	Lecture – Current Topics  Film – The Lost Cannibals of Europe  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE	Review & Quiz   <b>***DUE:</b> Thesis and topic
<b>Week 4- July 30- Aug 3 Cultural</b>	Lecture – Cultural Anthro and Forms  <b>Readings Due:</b> FS Ch. 7 & 7a	Lecture- Identity  Film – Fast Food Women  <b>Readings Due:</b> FH Ch 4 & 14	Lecture - Methods (Ethnography)  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB - Wilk	Lecture – Current Topics  Film – Meaning of Food (part)  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE	Review & Quiz  <b>***DUE:</b> Outline and Works Cited
<b>Week 5 – Aug 6-10 Linguistic</b>	Lecture – Linguistic Anthro Intro  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB – Greene and Cramer	Lecture- Identity/Methods  <b>Readings Due:</b> BB – Duranti	Film – Meaning of Food (part)  <b>Readings Due:</b> FS – p. 158-168	Lecture – Current Topics  <b>DUE in class:</b> PARTICIPATE	Review & Quiz  <b>***DUE:</b> Paper