

Research Methods

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New York University

Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health

Graduate Program in Food Studies

1. What is Food Studies?

Visit at the library

Warren Belasco

Food Matters: Perspectives on an Emerging Field

In *Food Nations*, London: Routledge, 2002, Chapter 1

Andrew Smith

Culinary History: Towards a Conceptualization

Jeffrey Sobal, Laura Kettel Khan and Carole Bisogni

A conceptual model of the food and nutrition system

Social Science and Medicine, Vol. 47 (1998) No. 7, pp. 853-863

2. Structuring your Research

John W. Creswell

Five Qualitative Traditions of Inquiry

Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design, Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA 1997, pp. 47-72

Michael Hurlburt and Matthew Miles

Data Management and Analysis Methods

In Norman K. Denzin & Yvonne S. Lincoln ed., *Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials*, Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA 1998, pp. 179-210

3. Sources: the internet

Stephen Johnson

The Pattern Match

Emergence, Touchstone Books: New York, 2002, pp. 101-129

Dino Buzzetti

Digital Representation and the Text Model

New Literary History, 2002, 33: 61-88

David C. Tyler and Beth McNeil

Librarians and Link Rot: A Comparative Analysis with Some Methodological Considerations

portal: Libraries and the Academy, Vol. 3, No. 4 (2003), pp. 615-632

John M. Budd and Corrie Christensen

Social Sciences Literature and Electronic Information1

portal: Libraries and the Academy, Vol. 3, No. 4 (2003), pp. 643-651

1st Assignment

20% of final grade:

Pick a theme of interest. Select 20 written sources (in the library and on the Internet). For each source, include a bibliographic citation and a citation, 1-2 sentence summary of the work, and any relevant points or quotes (in this case, include page numbers).

4. Humanities and History

Andrew Smith

False Memories: The Invention of Culinary Fakelore and Food Fallacies

in Harlan Walker, ed., *Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2000*. Devon, United Kingdom: Prospect Books, 2001.

Manuel De Landa

Introduction

A Thousand Years of Nonlinear History, Swerve Editions: New York 2000, pp. 11-22

Mark M. Smith

Making Sense of Social History *Journal of Social History* 37.1 (2003) 165-186

Sigurdur Gylfi Magnússon **The Singularization of History: Social History and Microhistory Within The Postmodern State of Knowledge**

Journal of Social History 36.3 (2003) 701-735

5. Anthropology, ethnology, folklore

Immanuel Wallerstein

The development of the concept of development

Sociology Theory, vol. 2 (1984) 102-116

Santiago Castro-Gomez

Traditional vs. Critical Cultural Theory

Cultural Critique 49 (Fall 2001), pp 139-154

Ellen Messer

Anthropological Perspectives on Diet

Annual review of Anthropology, vol. 13 (1984), pp. 205-249

2nd Assignment

20% of final grade:

Pick one of the following essays. Create an extended outline of the article, explaining its structure, its thesis, its theoretical background, and its arguments.

Discuss if they suggest methodological elements that can be relevant and/or useful for food studies

Claude Lévi-Strauss

The Structural Study of Myth

Structural Anthropology, Anchor Books: Garden City, NY 1967 (1963) pp. 202-228

Michele Scalise Sugiyama

Food, Foragers and Folklore: the role of narrative in human subsistence

Evolution and Human Behavior 22 (2001) 221-240

Thorstein Veblen

Conspicuous Consumption

The Theory of the Leisure Class, The Modern Library, New York 2001 (1889), pp. 52-75

Stewart Hall

Encoding/decoding

in Stuart Hall et al. ed., *Culture, Media, Language* (Unwin Hyman, 1980), pp. 128-138

6. Psychology

Satoshi Kanazawa

De Gustibus Est Disputandum*

Social Forces, March 2001, 79(3), pp.1131-1163

D. A. Zellner, A. Garriga-Trillo, E. Rohm, S. Centeno and S. Parker

Food Liking and Craving: A Cross-cultural Approach

Appetite, 1999, 33, pp. 61-70

Paivi Palojoki, Terttu Tuomi-Grohn

The complexity of food choices in an everyday context

International Journal of Consumer Studies, 25, March 2001, pp.15-23

Paul Rozin

Evolution and Adaption in the Understanding of Behavior, Culture, and Mind

American Behavioral Scientist, Vol. 43 No. 6, March 2000, pp. 970-986

7. Sociology

Alan Beardsworth and Teresa Keil

Sociological Perspectives on Food and Eating

Sociology on the Menu, Routledge: London & New York 1997, pp. 47-70

Mary Douglas

Standard Social Uses of Food: Introduction

Food in the Social Order, Russel Sage Foundation: New York 1984, pp. 1-39

Pierre Bourdieu

The Habitus and the Space of Life-Styles

Distinction, Harvard University Press: Cambridge 1984, pp.169-200

Michel De Certeau

General Introduction

The Practice of Everyday Life, University of California Press: Berkeley, pp. xi-xxiv

8. Scientific literature

Thomas S. Kuhn

Introduction: A Role for History, The Route to Normal Science

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, University of Chicago Press: Chicago 1996 (1962), pp. 1-22

Roger N. Lancaster

The Science Question: Cultural Preoccupation and Social Struggles

The Trouble with Nature, University of California Press: Berkeley 2003, pp. 71-79

David B. Resnik

Financial Interests and Research Bias

Perspectives on Science 2000, vol. 8, no. 3, pp.255-285

3rd Assignment

20% of the final grade

Read and write a three page critical assessment of the theme discussed in the following articles, offering bibliographical sources against or in favor of the two positions.

Gary Taubes

What if It's All Been a Big Fat Lie?

New York Times Magazine, July 7, 2002, p.22

Bonnie Liebman

Big Fat Lies

Nutritional Action, Vol. 29 no. 9 (Nov 2002), pp. 1-7

Daniel Kadlec

The Low-Carb Frenzy

TIME, May 3, 2004, pp. 46-54

Tomas J. Philipson and Richard A. Posner (MAYBE)

The Long-Run Growth in Obesity as a Function of Technological Change

Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, volume 46, number 3 supplement (summer 2003), pp 87-S107

9. Quantitative and Qualitative Research

Patricia Adler and Peter Adler

Observational Techniques

In Norman K. Denzin & Yvonne S. Lincoln ed., *Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials*, Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA 1998, pp. 79-109

Kimball Romney, Susan Weller, William Batchelder

Culture as Consensus: A Theory of Culture and Informant Accuracy

American Anthropologist, vol. 88, no 2 (June 1986) pp. 313-338

Kathryn Oths, Adriana Carolo and José Ernesto Dos Santos

Social Status and Food Preference in Southern Brazil

Ecology of Food and Nutrition, 42 (2003) pp. 303-324

Christine Newkirk and Kathryn S. Oths, University of Alabama

When health food becomes high-class: nutrition discourse and food prestige in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil (*pre-publication draft-- June 13, 2004 ASFS Conference)

10. Interviews and Surveys

Andrea Fontana and James H.Frey

Interviewing

In Norman K. Denzin & Yvonne S. Lincoln ed., *Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials*, Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA 1998, pp. 179-210

Jon Weimer, Patricia McKinney, and Linda K. Benning

Tools to Assess Nutrition Education with Low-Income Families*Journal of Nutrition Education* Volume 33 Supplement 1 September 2001, pp.-15

Susan Scott and C. J. Duncan

Malnutrition, Pregnancy, and Infant Mortality: A Biometric Model

Journal of Interdisciplinary History 30.1 (1999) 37-60

Arnfried Kielmann; Clayton Ajello; Nanjita Kielmann

Nutrition Intervention. The Evaluation of six Studies

Studies in Family Planning, vol. 13, no. 8/9 (ago-sep 1982) pp. 246-257

4th Assignment

20% of final grade:

Prepare a questionnaire and hold a survey on a limited sample or conduct several open interviews about the theme you chose for the first assignment. Write a 5 pages paper with the analysis of the results. Tables, figures and/or bibliography will be provided, but will not be included in the 5 pages count.

20% of the final grade will reflect the level of participation in the class and of preparation on the assigned material

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