

## **Exploring The Omnivore's Dilemma Fall 2006**

**Course Title:** FRS 004, Community Book Project Seminar

**Units:** 2

**Time:** Friday 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

**Location:** 3 Wellman

**Instructor:** Deanna Pucciarelli

**Office Hours:** Friday 9-10 a.m., or by appointment

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### **OVERVIEW:**

**Welcome to UC Davis's Campus Community Book Project Seminar!** In this course we will identify the meanings of food within the American culture, and explore the ways in which geography, cultural, political and economic forces interact to influence our food choices, health, and nutritional status. Through readings, class discussion, and student participation students will have the necessary skills by the end of the course to answer the following questions:

1. How can food have different meanings and uses for different people?
2. How do such factors as gender, ethnicity, class, religious beliefs, the media and corporate capitalism affect the foods we choose and eat?
3. How does food function both to foster community feeling and drive wedges among people?
4. What are some prevailing academic theories that help us identify and understand more nuanced meanings of food?
5. What cultural factors influence food-intake choices?
6. What environmental factors, among them: food availability, food policy, family, and/or peer pressure, advertising, and economics influence food consumption patterns? Are the factors measurable (quantifiable)?
7. Who has the "right" to advise others on food consumption? What education, training, and research experience are required of diet-book authors? What criteria are used to evaluate diet-book claims?

### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

**Text:** The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

After completing this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

- 1) The interaction of culture, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status in determining food choices.
- 2) The historical context in which the contemporary American diet has evolved.
- 3) The economic and political factors impacting the national food supply.

## **Course Requirements and Policies**

### **COURSE FORMAT:**

One (2 hours) lecture per week. Grades will be based on class participation. Therefore, attendance is crucial. (20%); attendance of 4 events (20%); three reviews: each review will be two-pages in length. (30%); and a reflective essay: 5-pages in length (30%).

### **EXAMS:**

None, but pop quizzes may be given on reading assignments.

### **ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES AND EXAMS:**

Assignments must be turned in to the instructor **IN CLASS** on the due date. **Do not fax or email assignments or slip them under my office door. Late assignments will not be accepted** and there will be no make up assignments available.

### **HONOR CODE AND PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

Students are expected to uphold the UCD standard of conduct for students relating to academic dishonesty. Students assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that a student's submitted work, examinations, and assignments must be that student's own work.

<b>GRADING: P/NP</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Point Breakdown</b>
Class Participation:	20%	20	2 points each class [2 points for survey]
Event (4) Attendance:	20%	20	5 points for each event
Event (3) Review:	30%	30	10 points for each review
Reflective Essay	30%	30	
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>	

**To earn a [P]ass you must have 70% or 70 points.**

## Due Dates Events

### Events:

Select (4) to attend (See Brochure):

(2) Events are mandatory:

a. October 16<sup>th</sup>, The Multiple Perspective of Obesity, East Conference Room, MU, 4:10-5:30 p.m..

Paper Review Due: October 20<sup>th</sup>

b. November 29<sup>th</sup>, Author's Talk, Michael Pollan, Mondavi Center, 8-9:30 p.m. Tickets will be distributed (free) to you.

Paper Review Due: December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The other (2) events are of your choosing. But you only have to write (1) more review. Since we will as a class attend an event on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, you may choose this event to write on, but you can also write on your 4<sup>th</sup> event.

√ Paper Review Due: November 17<sup>th</sup>

Review papers need to be two pages in length, double spaced, 1.25 inch margins, using Times New Roman font, 12-point. No title or references cited page required

## Reflective Paper

**Due December 8<sup>th</sup>**

This paper should take into account the events you attended (including field trips), the discussions shared in class and reflection on the book you read. Questions you may ask yourself prior to writing are: How has my food purchasing changed as a result of this class (if it did not, why?); have I changed my eating habits as a result of this class, why/why not; What is Michael Pollan's main points in his book? Do I agree or disagree with them based on my experience in this class?

Four full pages typed plus title page, plus reference/works cited page, double spaced, 1.25 inch margins, using Times New Roman font, 12-point.

References must be cited in the text (if used). Use either APA or MLA for citation style.