

ANTH 360G: FOOD AND CULTURE AROUND THE WORLD
COURSE SYLLABUS

Class: 12:30-1:20 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Room: 182 Breland

Professor: Dr. Lois Stanford

Office: 306 Breland

Office phone: 646-6092

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Office hours: 8:00 -9:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (or by appointment)

Course Description:

This class takes a global look at the social, symbolic, and political-economic roles of what and how we eat. We all eat, but rarely do we closely study why we eat what we eat. In this class, we examine the cultural significance of food and eating across cultures around the world, with particular attention to how people in different cultures define themselves differently through their foodways. The lectures, readings, films, and class projects will teach students how food habits and beliefs both present a microcosm of culture and also contribute to our understanding of human behavior. The course examines the role of food in human history, the biological and cultural construction of food needs, and classification of what is a food. Then we study food's role in maintaining economic and social relations, cultural conceptions of health, and religion. Finally, the class examines the complex economic and political changes in food systems and the persistence of food's role as an expression of identity, social and ethnic markers, and individual choice.

ANTH 360G satisfies 3 credits of Viewing the Wider World for students not in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Required Books:

Anderson, E.N. 2005. *Everyone Eats: Understanding Food and Culture*. New York: New York University Press.

Counihan, Carole, *editor*. 2002. *Food in the USA: A Reader*. New York: Routledge Press.

Counihan, Carole, and Penny Van Esterik, editors. 1997. *Food and Culture: A Reader*. New York: Routledge Press.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

Date **Topic**

8/22-8/24 **Why study Food?**

Reading assignment: Counihan and Esterik, Introduction, Part One: Food, Meaning and Voice (1 and 2)

8/22: Article Reading Guide: handout.

8/27-31 **Food in History**

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 1; Counihan and Esterik: Part One: Food, Meaning and Voice (5).; Part Four: The Political Economy of Food (24 and 25)

8/27: *Food, Demographics, and Culture* (film).

8/31: The History of a Food (1st Project): handout.

9/03-07 **Food as Biological and Cultural Need**

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 2 and 3.

9/03: No class, Labor Day

9/07: *Food and Life* (film).

9/10-14 **Food and Economic Relations**

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 5

9/14: 1st Project due.

9/17-21 Classifying Food

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 7; Counihan and Esterik, Part One: Food, Meaning and Voice (3, 4 and 6)

9/21: *A World of Food: Tastes and Taboos in Different Cultures* (film).

9/21: 1st Exam Review Handout.

9/24-28 Food as Social Relations

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 8; Counihan and Esterik, Part Two: Commensality and Fasting (8, 10, and 14)

9/28: 1st Exam.

10/01-05 Food and Health

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 9; Counihan and Esterik, Part Two: Commensality and Fasting (13); Counihan and Esterik, Part Three: Food, Body, and Culture (18, and 19)

10/08-12 Food and Religion

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 10; Counihan and Esterik, Part Two: Commensality and Fasting (11 and 12)

10/12: Food in Ritual (2nd Project): handout.

10/12: *Food for the Ancestors* (film).

10/15-19 Food and Nation Building: the U.S.

Reading assignment: Counihan, Part 1: Food and the Nation (1, 3, and 5)

10/22-26 Food and Consumption in the U.S.

Reading assignment: Counihan, Part II: Making U.S. Food (7, 8, 10, and 12).

10/26: *How to Get Fat without Really Trying* (film.)

10/26: 2nd Exam Review Handout.

10/29-11/02 Globalizing Food

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 11; Counihan and Esterik, Part Four: The Political Economy of Food (21); Counihan, Part V: Food and The Emerging World (25, 26, and 27).

11/02: 2nd Exam.

11/05-09 Food and Identity

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 12; Counihan and Esterik, Part Three: Food, Body, and Culture (20); Counihan, Part IV: Food Signifying Identities (19 and 21).

11/05: 2nd Project due (1st possible date).

11/12-16 Food and Identity (continued)

Reading assignment: Counihan, Part IV: Food Signifying Identities (22 and 23).

11/14: Food and Identity (3rd Project): handout.

11/16: *Food and Culture* (film).

11/19-23 Thanksgiving vacation

11/26-30 The Future of Food

Reading assignment: Anderson, Chapter 13; Counihan and Esterik, Part Four: The Political Economy of Food (27 and 28); Counihan, Part V: Food and the Emerging World (29).

11/26: 2nd Project due (2nd possible date).

11/30: *The Future of Food* (film).

12/03-07 Bringing Food Home: Reflecting on Food and Culture

Reading assignment: Counihan, Part V: Food and the Emerging World (30).

12/07: 3rd Exam Review Handout.

12/07: 3rd Project due.

12/10-14 Finals week

12/14: 3rd Exam, Friday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Course Requirements:

Students will complete three written projects on the following topics:

(1) the history of a specific food item, examining the cultural history of a single food product or dish.

(2) food in ritual, focusing on the use of food in a social and/or religious ritual

(3) food and identity, interviewing someone about the role of food in their ethnic identity

These projects are each worth 100 points (i.e., 10% of the final grade). Each project handout will be distributed in class two weeks before the assignment is due. Assignments turned in after the indicated due date will have points deducted.

As well, there are three exams for the class, each worth 200 points (i.e., 20% of the final grade). Students will receive a review handout the week before the exam. Exams will be identification and short answer, drawing from lectures, readings, and films.

Finally, class attendance will count 100 points (i.e., 10% of the final grade). The class attendance policy is that students are expected to attend all classes regularly. Even if the student has a valid reason for missing a class, the student is still responsible for taking exams on the stated dates. Class attendance will comprise 10% of the final grade as well. Class attendance will be taken at each class. Students who attend at least 90% of the classes will receive full credit (100 points), while students who attend at least 80% of the class will receive 90 points, and those who attend at least 70% of classes will receive 80 points, etc. Students who are passing the class and are absent on documented university business have an automatic right to make up work. In these cases, students must make arrangements to make up work (i.e. exams) before missing the scheduled exam.

Assignment	Dates	Points possible	% of Final Grade
1 st project	9/14	100	10
1 st exam	9/28	200	20
2 nd exam	11/02	200	20
2 nd project	11/05 or 11/26	100	10
3 rd project	12/07	100	10
3 rd exam	12/14	200	20
attendance	all	100	10
Total		1000	100

Withdrawal Policy:

It is not the professor's responsibility to automatically withdraw students from the class for non-attendance in the beginning of the semester. Withdrawal is the student's responsibility. Students who wish to drop the course should withdraw by 16 October 2007.

Academic Misconduct:

With regards to cheating on exams, if the professor or designated graduate student observes a student cheating, the exam will be taken, and the student will receive a 0 on the exam. Each exam counts 20% of the final grade, i.e. the equivalent of two letter grades.

With regards to the projects, plagiarism constitutes cheating. If the student uses information from another's research, the student must include full citations. If the student directly quotes these sources, the student must so indicate. Even with a citation, failure to put quotation marks around direct quotations also constitutes plagiarism, because it implies that the writing is your own. Material should either be paraphrased or clearly designated as a quotation. Note that replacing words with synonyms, changing verb tense or other minor alterations do not qualify as paraphrasing. The student should consult with the professor to clarify any questions that the student may have about what constitutes plagiarism.

The professor does not accept papers containing plagiarized material. The paper will not be graded, and the student will receive a 0 for the project. Since each project constitutes 10% of the student's final grade, this will represent a drop of 1 letter grade. Students are advised to consult the professor if they have any questions and/or concerns about what constitutes plagiarism.

For further clarification as to what constitutes plagiarism, the student should consult the following websites with regards to academic misconduct:

<http://www.nmsu.edu/%7Evpsa/SCOC/misconduct.html>

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/plagiarismforstudents.htm>

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on cumulative point total at the end of the semester, reflecting the following distribution:

A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	0-599

Depending on the class grade distribution, the professor may curve the final grades and these grade cutoff points may be lower. Anthropology majors should be aware that they will need a C or better in the class to satisfy departmental graduation requirements. Students taking the class S/U option should be aware that a C- is the minimum requirement for an S in the course.

Incomplete Grades:

Incompletes are rarely given. Under extenuating circumstances at the end of the semester, students may be granted an incomplete. Assignments to that date must have been completed in a timely manner. Incompletes cannot be used to avoid low grades.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit available.

American Disabilities Act:

If the student has or believes he/she has a disability, the student may wish to self-identify. The student can contact Michael Armendariz at the Office for Services for Students with Disabilities, located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646-6840). Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for the student, and all medical information will be treated confidentially. If the student has already registered, the student should provide the professor with a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. The student should inform either the professor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting the student's needs.

If the student has a condition which may affect his/her ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, he/she is encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the professor and/or Mr. Michael Armendariz, SSD Coordinator (phone: 646-6840).

If the student has general questions about the American with Disabilities Act, he/she may call Ms. Angela Velasco, EEO/ADA & Employee Relations Director (phone: 646-3333). All medical information is treated confidentially.

If the student has questions about NMSU's Non-Discrimination Policy, the student may contact Jerry Nevarez, Director of Institutional Equity (phone: 646-3635).

Posting of Grades

Students may determine their standing in the course at any time during the semester by adding their point total for the completed assignments. The professor will not post grades prior to 16 October 2007, the last day to drop an individual course. Final course grades will not be posted. Students can access their final grades via the Web or consult the professor at the end of the semester.