

THE POLITICS OF GENDER AND FOOD

University Honors College

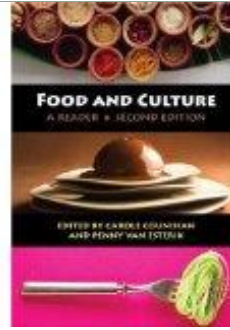
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies 1180 (27472)
Anthropology 1716 (27603)

Wednesday 12:00-2:25PM

Dr. Frayda Cohen
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OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, & Thurs: 3:00-4:00PM
and by appointment.
402-C Cathedral of Learning



Texts:

Course Reading Packet.
Available online through course web. (CW)

2008 Counihan, Carole & Penny Van Esterik eds., Food and Culture: A Reader.
2nd Edition. New York:

1997 Ehrlich, Elizabeth, Miriam's Kitchen: A Memoir. New York:
Penguin Books
(MK) ISBN-13: 978-

Course Structure

This course is a seminar that fulfills an International/Foreign/Global (GLO) General Education Requirement.

It does **NOT** fulfill a Writing Intensive (W) Requirement.

This course counts towards:

- Certificate in Global Studies
- Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies.



What's Your Favorite Food?

Please Eat in Class!



Course Objectives & Goals

Food is sustenance and absolutely essential to life. But food is never simply about nutrition. Because it is fundamental to the human experience, food is also a medium for the expression of culture and social identity. Moreover, food relays complex social messages about gender, sexuality, and family. Consequently, food is also a means for expressing the social and symbolic use of power and control in which social inequalities are expressed in culinary forms. This course will examine food from the vantage point of gendered systems of production, distribution, and consumption as we consider: How does your food come to your table (or not) and what are the political implications of personal tastes?

By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1) apply anthropological and feminist theories to food and eating in a cross-cultural perspective; 2) understand how gender, race and class influence our access to and perspective on food; and 3) make connections between eating and cultural identities and beliefs.

Deadlines

- Jan. 28 - Paper/Presentation #1
- Feb. 18 - Journal Entry #1 (Comments only)
- Mar. 4 – Quiz #1
- Mar. 18 – Paper #2
- Apr. 8 – Quiz #2
- Apr. 15 - Paper/Presentation #3

Are these two images in opposition with one another?

Should they be?



Ground Rules for Class Discussion

Discussion will make up a great percentage of our time in class. Following a few basic discussion guidelines will help insure that this time is productive, enlightening and fun: 1) Follow the golden rule and treat others as you would be treated; 2) You do not have to express your opinion on a given subject and you are always free to change your mind; 3) students bring many interesting experiences to the classroom and you are encouraged to bring up your experience when it is relevant to class discussion (if you feel comfortable doing so). Personal experiences deserve respect but also recognize that your experience becomes a public topic for discussion. Others may interpret your experience differently than you do, and they are free to respectfully disagree with your interpretation.

Attendance: VERY IMPORTANT

You are paying for an opportunity to learn. Absences hurt your ability to learn and they hurt your grade. Signing up for this class indicates that you are committed to being here for the full class period each class meeting. For the purposes of this policy, you are either present for an entire class meeting or not. Late arrivals and early departures will count as absences — really. You are allowed one unexcused absence over the course of the semester. For each additional absence, your semester grade will be reduced by 1/2 grade. Further, in-class assignments and quizzes cannot be made up.

If you miss class, you are still responsible for whatever was covered in lecture and discussion that day. **YOUR PROFESSOR IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS POLICY, AND SHE ENFORCES IT.** Unexcused absences in excess of three will be excused only under exceptional and unavoidable circumstances. Requests for excused absences must be submitted in writing, with documentation, and immediately upon a student's return to class. Students who enroll late are not exempt from this policy.

Assignments and Extensions

Assignments (except for in-class work, and the like) will be announced well in advance of due dates.

If you know in advance that you can't make a due date, please discuss it with me beforehand. In all other cases, late assignments will not be accepted.

Grades

I am eager to help you do well on assignments BEFORE they are due. Please visit me during office hours to ask me questions when you are working on an assignment or reviewing material. Grades are final. I grade assignments and quizzes on performance, not effort. Final grades will be based on the standard university percentage scale. The professor reserves the right to adjust students' semester grades based upon her evaluation of their overall performance.

Accommodations

If you require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both the professor and Disability Resources and Services by the end of the first week of the term. The office of Disability Resources and Services is located in 216 William Pitt Union (648-7890 [voice or TDD]), and their website is at: [<http://www.drs.pitt.edu>]. If you have a disability, please let me know as early as you can so that I can accommodate you.

Cell phone and laptop policy:

All cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned to the off setting during class. Laptops are to be used for note-taking only.



University Policies

Pitt's expectations for academic integrity, student conduct, and nondiscrimination

Nondiscrimination Statement

In addition to the University's policy, and within the bounds of the course, I do not discriminate on the basis of political creed. This means that you do not have to agree with me in order to do well in this course. So long as you demonstrate an understanding of the course material, you are under no obligation to agree with it. I also make every effort to avoid discrimination on the basis of class or income. If there is something I can do to make the class more hospitable, please let me know.

Student Code of Conduct: [<http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/usjs/code.html>]

Academic Integrity: [<http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html>]

Plagiarism is using someone else's ideas as your own. If you use someone else's ideas, you are expected to cite them. If you use someone else's exact words, even if it is part of a sentence, you should put quotation marks around them and cite them. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and can result in failure of the assignment, the course, and other serious sanctions. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please see me. As a professor at the University of Pittsburgh, I value equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic/cultural diversity. Be assured that I will promote a safe and conducive environment for learning. In accordance with University policy, I will not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.

E-mail policy:

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Classroom recording policy:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

I. CLASS ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (50 points):

It is very important that you attend all sessions to benefit fully from the readings, lectures, and class discussion. In order to participate actively in discussion, you should prepare the assigned readings before class begins. Participating in discussion is one of the best ways to learn. You are expected to contribute your insights to the class and treat your classmates' contributions with respect, which means taking them seriously and challenging them as well as extending basic courtesy. Seminar courses, unlike lectures, are courses in which there is discussion among all members of the class. While the instructor may guide discussions using questions based on course readings, the participation of everyone is essential and is reflected in your grade.

Discussion Leader

Each student will lead discussion once. This means you should come to class with 3 or 4 discussion questions. You should also have identified key terms and concepts for discussion.

II. QUIZZES (100 Points)

Quizzes (2 @ 50 points for a total 100 points): **NO MAKEUP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN.**

III. ASSIGNMENTS (3@50 points for a total of 150 points)

- ◆ Assignment #1 – Recipe Analysis (3-5 page paper)
- ◆ Assignment #2 – International Food/Food Production Interview (3-5 page paper)
- ◆ Assignment #3 – Class Potluck/Food Analysis (3-5 page paper)

IV. Food Journal (100 Points)

Food Journal (3 entries for a total of 100 Points): Investigation of a theme of your choice. Your journal should be organized around one central theme linked to gender and the politics of food. Theme and entry #1 should be submitted for comments by Feb.18.

Your description and analysis must address the ways in which your topic fits with or challenges readings from class, especially with regard to constructions of gender. Each entry should be 3-4 pages in length.

You may choose from the following formats or suggest one of your own:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Analysis of a recommended reading◆ Review of Magazine/Newspaper Article or Food Show◆ Brief food analysis◆ Analysis of food activism blog or website (e.g. La Leche)◆ Report on & visit food pantry, food coop, farm to table site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Film Review (<i>Supersize Me, King Corn, etc.</i>)◆ Critical analysis of supermarket, "ethnic" grocer, restaurant, etc.◆ Shadowing a food service worker
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Week 1: Introduction

Jan. 7 Overview of Class & Film
(*Babette's Feast*)

Week 2: Food, Religion, & Memoir

Jan. 14 Discuss: Miriam's Kitchen (pp.1-74)
Bell (CW)
Bynum (FC)



Recommended Readings
Teophano (CW)

Week 3: Food, Religion, & Memoir

Jan. 21 Discuss: Miriam's Kitchen (pp.75-168)
Rouse and Hoskins (CW)
Douglas (FC)

Recommended Readings
Harris (FC)
Berzok In Pilaf, Pozole & Pad Thai (CW)
DeVault (FC)
Taipei Times: Chinese Lying In (CW)

Week 4: Food and Family

Jan. 28 Discuss: Miriam's Kitchen (pp.169-224)
Levi-Strauss (FC)
Murcott (CW)
Emerson (Handout)

Due: Assignment #1 (Family Recipes)



Week 5: Me, Myself and Others: Food and Identity

Feb. 4 Discuss: Miriam's Kitchen (pp. 224-end)
Allison (FC)
Williams-Forson (FC)



Case Study:
France

Recommended Readings:
Wilk (FC)
Meneley – "Like an Extra Virgin" (CW)
Anderson Chapters 8 & 12 (CW)
Appadurai (FC)

Week 6: Me, Myself and Others: Food and Identity

Feb. 11 Discuss: Watson (CW)
Yan (FC)
Sims (CW)
Lewis, George "Of Love and Power"
The World and I, 10(2): 248-257 [1995]

Recommended Readings:
Nabhan (FC)
Bordo (FC)
Ketchum (CW)
Holden (CW)

Week 7: Producing the USA

Feb. 18 Discuss: Kane (CW)
Reimagining Milk (CW)

Due: Journal Entry #1 (Comments only)

Recommended Readings:
Erickson & Beriss (CW)

Week 8: Colonial Foods



Feb. 25 Discuss: Fellner (CW)
Reichman (CW)
Mintz (FC)
Van Esterik (FC)

Film: Coffee-go-round



Week 9: Globalization and Gender

March 4 Discuss: Heldke (FC)
Imbruce (CW)
Bestor (CW)

DUE: Quiz 1

Week 10: Holidays

March 11 SPRING BREAK

Week 11: Gender and Food Production

March 18 Discuss: Barndt (FC)
Schlosser (FC)
Deutsch (CW)
Paresecoli (FC)



Due: Assignment #2 Class Potluck & Presentation

Week 12 : Food Fights & Alternatives

March 25 Discuss: Paarlberg (CW)
Clark (FC)
Pilcher (FC)
Adams (CW)

Recommended Readings:

Brownell (FC)
Flynn (FC)
Hassamein (CW)

Week 13: Hunger

April 1 Discuss: Shiva (CW)
Julier (FC **NOT** CW)
Poppendieck (FC)
Nestle (CW)
Scheper-Hughes (CW)

Recommended Readings:

Anderson – Feeding the World (CW)

Week 14: Wrap-up and Review

April 8 Film: *The Global Banquet*

DUE: Quiz 2

Week 15: Wrap-up and Review

April 15 Due: Assignment #3 Class Potluck & Presentation

Week 16: Final Journals Due

April 22 Due: Completed Food Journals Due in GSWS Office by 5PM.