

SYLLABUS
ANTHROPOLOGY 20B (60090) / Chicano/Latino Studies 66 (61060)
ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

Professor: Leo R. Chavez
Office hours: Thursday 1:30 – 2:30, and appt.
Office: Social & Behavioral Sciences Gateway 3326

QUARTER: FALL 2013
Room: SE2 1306
Days & Time: TU THUR 11-12:20

Purpose of the Course

Anthropology of Food will examine food in the various ways it is meaningful to human cultures. Food is more than about the biological need to eat. Food communicates ideas about ethnocentrism, disgust, privilege, gender, race, identities, social relationships, kinship, social hierarchies, globalization, and power. This course examines food in relation to these concepts, as well as the political economy of food production and consumption, and contemporary trends in consuming the “Western diet” and its health consequences.

Required Readings:

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

Steve Striffler. *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America’s Favorite Food*. Yale Univ. Press, 2005.

Suggested Readings:

Robert Alvarez, Jr. *Mangos, Chiles, and Truckers*. Univ. of Minnesota Press. 2005.

Ruth Gomberg-Munoz, *Labor and Legality*. Oxford Univ. Press. 2011.

Instruction:

Instruction will be a combination of lectures and films. Lectures will highlight important points in the readings and will introduce ideas and material not found in the readings. Lectures will **NOT** cover all the reading material. Students are responsible for all reading assignments. Films are a very important part of the class. Films will cover ethnographic material that supplements the readings. Exams will cover lectures, readings and films.

The lectures, films and readings on specific cultures will furnish the data base from which to draw conclusions about human behavior. From the data on specific cultures and societies we move toward generalizations. By using case studies in this way, students learn through the inductive method. The course will try and communicate to students a style of thinking about behavior and social relations.

Grading:**Film reports 20%**

We will watch two films that prominently feature food and you will write film reports for each. The two to three-page, double-spaced report will relate the film to class readings and discussions. (Further instructions forthcoming.) The film reports will be due on **Oct. 15** (for King Corn.) and **Oct. 29** (for *Food, Inc.*).

EMAIL IN MICROSOFT WORD FILES

At top of page, line 1: Name, ID number. ANTHRO OF FOOD FILM REPORT

Midterm and Final 50%

There will be two in-class exams. Make-up exams only will be permitted due to emergencies.

CHOOSE ONE FIELD ASSIGNMENT 20%:**Fieldwork 1: ETHNIC MARKETS**

Go to 2 or 3 different ethnic markets serving 2 different ethnic groups or populations (e.g. Asian or Mexican, or Persian, etc). What makes them distinctive? What makes them similar? This should be done in groups of 3. Each student will write a 2-3 page summary of how the experience related to class readings and discussions. Failure to discuss class readings here will result in a lower grade. Each group will make a classroom presentation. This should be done before Week 6 of class.

Use MESSAGEBOARD TO POST PHOTOS AND DISCUSSION

At top of page, line 1: Name, ID number. ANTHRO OF FOOD ETHNIC MARKETS

Fieldwork 2: THANKSGIVING DINNER

This is an assignment that will be done as a group of 3 students, comparing their own family's food culture with that of the other students. Each student will write a 2 page summary of how the experience related to class readings and discussions. Failure to discuss class readings here will result in a lower grade. The assignment will be due in class on **Oct. 27**. And presentations in class will follow (Further instructions forthcoming.)

Use MESSAGEBOARD TO POST PHOTOS AND DISCUSSION

At top of page, line 1: Name, ID number. ANTHRO OF FOOD THANKSGIVING DINNER

Attendance and participation – 10% You are expected to come to class having done a close reading of ALL of the assigned material, prepared to discuss your thoughts and questions with your classmates. You will be marked down for more than two unexcused absence.

Late Work. There are no make up exams or presentations. If you do not give your presentation on your assigned day you will be given a zero. If you do not show up for one of the exams you will be given a zero. There are no exceptions to this policy. All assignments must be turned in to receive a passing grade in the course.

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated.

WEEKLY OUTLINE AND READINGS

WEEK 1: Sept 26 Introduction to Anthropology of food and the concept of Culture

READ: Anderson, Introduction, and chapters 1 -2

WEEK 2: Oct 1, 3 Humans and basic food requirements; hunting and gathering

READ: Anderson Chapters 5, 7
 Lee: Foraging for a living
 The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race

Video: Nai documentary, on gathering and hunting.

WEEK 3: Oct 8, 10 Foods that Changed the World: Ancient foods, Old World and New World Exchanges

READ: COE, The History of Chocolate, Chapters 3, 4
 Kurlansky, SALT, Introduction, Chapters 3, 4
 MINTZ, Time, Sugar, and Sweetness

THURSDAY FILM: KING CORN.

WEEK 4: Oct 15, 17 Industrial food production

READ: Steve Striffler. *Chicken*

WEEK 5: Oct 22, 24

TUESDAY: MIDTERM

THURSDAY FILM: FOOD INC

Week 6: 29, 31 Hybridity and culture change, and identity

READ: Anderson, Chapters 8, 10, 11, 12

Week 7. NOV 5, 7 TACOS and Fast Food Work

READ: Pilcher, Planet Taco, Intro A Tale of Two Tacos.
 Gomberg-Munoz, "Willing to Work."
 NY TIMES KFC Gaza
 Guest Eudelio Martinez

Week 8: NOV 12, 14 RAMEN

READ: The Noodle Narratives, Intro and Chapters 2, 3

Week 9: NOV 19, 21 Food, Health, GMO,

READ: Anderson, Chapter 9
Moss, The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food.
LA TIMES Eat Bugs
GMO

WEEK 10: NOV 26, 28 Global Food

READ: Bestor: How Sushi Went Global.
Yan, Yunxiang, Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing in
Food and Culture Reader, Chapter 32.

NO CLASS THURSDAY [Thanksgiving]

WEEK 11: DEC 3, 5 CATCH UP

Carry-over topics

Class presentations

FINAL: TUESDAY DEC. 10, 10:30-12:30