

ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

Anthropology 235-010

Fall 2007

Course Description

This course explores the relationship between food and culture in both the past and present. Topics include the economic, political, and symbolic dimensions of food, the effects of dietary changes on health, and the role of globalization.

This class will be run as a seminar devoted to discussions of issues raised in the assigned readings. For good discussion everyone must come to class having done the readings and prepared to talk. Students who have not done the assigned reading will be asked to leave so that they can complete the assignments and so that those who remain can engage in an informed exchange of ideas. To do well, students must complete all assignments on time, review their notes thoroughly and consistently throughout the term, and demonstrate extra effort and pride in their work for all written assignments. Students should expect to study a minimum of two to three hours for every hour spent in class.

Instructor: Jill Neitzel

e-mail: neitzel@udel.edu (all e-mail messages to professor should have ANTH 235 in the subject line)

Office: Munroe 107; you can also drop off messages/papers to be put in my mailbox in Munroe 135

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00-11:45am; or see me before or after class, e-mail me, or make an appointment

Phone: 831-8755; you can also leave messages at the Anthropology Department number 831-2802

Web Page: www.udel.edu/anthro/neitzel/

Class e-mail: ANTH235-010-07F@udel.edu

Required Textbooks

Caldwell, Melissa – The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating

Coe, Sophie – America's First Cuisines

Harris, Marvin – Good to Eat: Riddles of Food and Culture

Jones, Martin – Feast: Why Humans Share Food

Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko – Rice as Self: Japanese Identities through Time

Assignments

2 quizzes – 50 pts total

2 exams – 200 pts total

restaurant review – 50 pts

journal article review – 25 pts
 video review – 25 pts
 homework - 25 pts

NOTE: Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded each class period. Absent students will have 3 pts deducted from their semester point total. Exceptions will be made only for students who have a legitimate excuse and who have informed the instructor in advance.

No make-ups will be given for quizzes unless the student has a written excuse from the health center or has informed the instructor in advance about a legitimate, unavoidable absence.

Late projects will have penalty points deducted. The penalties will be 3 pts for after class on the due date, 5 pts for each additional day. Exceptions will be made only if the student has a written excuse from the health center or has made prior arrangements with the instructor

Grades

Grades for all assignment will be posted on WebCT (www.udel.edu/mycourses)

Grades will be assigned on a scale of:

	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%		
A 93-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	F 0-59%	
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%		

Schedule

For each class students should check the class web page to see if there are any assigned readings listed under “supplemental readings.” If yes, then those readings should be completed in addition to the ones listed below. Some readings may require a password, which is 6363)

Wed, 8/29 – introduction

Fri, 8/31 – primates

read: Jones chapters 1-2

Mon, 9/3 – NO CLASS

Wed, 9/5 – early humans

read: Jones chapters 3-4

video: Feeding and Food Sharing (media services, on order)

Fri, 9/7 – hunting/gathering

read: Jones chapters 5-6

Mon, 9/10 – transition to agriculture

read: Jones chapters 7-8

video: Corn and the Origins of Settled Life (media services 16mm)

Wed, 9/12 - agriculture

- read: Jones 9-10
 Fri, 9/14 – intensive agriculture
 read: Jones chapters 11-12
- Mon, 9/17 – long term trends
 read: entries on class web page
 QUIZ 1
- Wed, 9/19 - DUE: review of archaeology journal article
- Fri, 9/21 - New World cuisines
 read: Coe introduction – chapter 3
 video: Columbus and the Age of Discovery: The Columbian Exchange
 (media services VHS#2026v6)
- Mon, 9/24 – Aztec cuisine
 read: Coe chapters 4-6
- Wed, 9/26 – Maya cuisine
 read: Coe chapters 7-11
- Fri, 9/28 – Inca cuisine
 read: Coe chapters 12-15
- Mon, 10/1 – cuisine comparisons
 read: Coe chapters 16-17 and entries from class web page
- Wed, 10/3 – MIDTERM EXAM
- Fri, 10/5 – food taboos
 read: Harris chapters 1-2
 video: A World of Food (media services DVD #763)
- Mon, 10/8 – cows and pigs
 read: Harris chapters 3-4
- Wed, 10/10 - horses and beef
 read: Harris chapters 5-6
- Fri, 10/12 – milk and insects
 read: Harris chapters 7-8
- Mon, 10/15 – pets and humans
 read: Harris chapters 9-10
- Wed, 10/17 – overview and critique
 read: Harris chapter 11 and entries on class web page
- Fri, 10/19 – DUE: restaurant review
- Mon, 10/22 – metaphors and rice
 read: Ohnuki-Tierney chapters 1-2
 video: Nini Patun: Rice Cultivation and Rice Rituals in Bali (media
 services, on order)
- Wed, 10/24 – staple and world view

- read: Ohnuki-Tierney chapters 3-4
 Fri, 10/26 – NO CLASS
- Mon, 10/29 – rice as symbol
 read: Ohnuki-Tierney chapters 5-6
- Wed, 10/31 – rice and identity
 read: Ohnuki-Tierney chapters 7-8
- Fri, 11/2 – rice and change
 read: Ohnuki-Tierney chapter 9
- Mon, 11/5 – globalization
 read: entries from class web page
 QUIZ 2
 video: A Hunger for Pesos, a Yen for Dollars (media services VHS #2930)
- Wed, 11/7 – globalizing fast food in China
 read: Caldwell chapters 5, 6
- Fri, 11/9 – globalizing fast food (con'd)
 read: Caldwell chapters 4, 10, 11
 video: A Taste of China: The Family Table (media services VHS #5662pt3)
- Mon, 11/12 – coffee
 read: Caldwell chapter 8
 DUE: Black Gold review
- Wed, 11/14 – globalizing other foods
 read: Caldwell chapters 1, 2, 3
- Fri, 11/16 - globalizing other foods (con'd)
 read; Caldwell chapters 7, 9,
- Mon, 11/19 – bread and tortillas
 read: Caldwell chapters 13, 14, 16
- Wed, 11/21 – Thanksgiving and other feasts
 read: entries on class web page
 video: The Feast (media services VHS #5972)
- Fri, 11/23 – NO CLASS
- Mon, 11/26 – India
 read: Caldwell chapter 12 and entries on class web page
- Wed, 11/28 – sugar
 read; entries on class web page
 video: Sugar: the Rules of the Game (media services DVD #3339)
- Fri, 11/30 – global food problems
 read: Caldwell chapters 15, 17
- Mon, 12/3 – global food problems
 read: Caldwell chapters 18, 19

Wed, 12/5 – class feast

Video: A Taste of China: Masters of the Wok (media services VHS
#5662pt 1)

TBA - FINAL EXAM

NOTE: Your final exam day and time can not be changed except for the most compelling circumstances. Do NOT make any travel plans until you have checked the final exam schedule.

STUDY TIPS

If you've ever spent hours studying only to discover you haven't retained anything the next day, the following tips may help you to study more effectively.

When & Where to Study

- It is recommended to study two hours for every hour spent in class.
- Establish a study schedule for each class and stick to it.
- Don't pull an all-nighter. You will retain more without wearing yourself out if you study in more regular, shorter sessions.
- Identify gaps in your schedule that can be used for studying. For example, the time between classes or waiting for a bus is perfect for reviewing notes.
- Set up a study area in a quiet place. Be sure to have everything you may need within reach.

Staying Focused

- Start each study session by setting goals. Prioritize your work by deadlines and by the amount of time the material will take to get through.
- Break up a study session with short breaks to stay alert. Get up and move around. Try incorporating breathing and stretching exercises to really get a fresh start.
- Eliminate distractions such as television or radio noise. Noisy roommates? Try the library or another study area on your campus.
- Make sure others respect your study time; learn to say no to demands that will interrupt it.
- Don't overdo it. Only do what is appropriate.