

**History/English 3070**  
**Perspectives in Folklore**  
**Fall 2006**  
**Folklore, Foodways, and Film**

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Office: Main 323-I  
History Department

Thursday: 4:30-7:00  
Classroom: Main 115  
Office Hours: Wed., Thurs. 3:00-4:00

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**Course Description:** Since the scholarly concept “foodways” was first introduced in 1970, the ethnological study of food in the such academic disciplines as History, Geography, Folklore, and Cultural Studies has been significant. Foodways has also become an important subject for both feature and documentary film makers. In this course, we will watch and discuss eight feature films that focus on foodways in a cultural context.

**R-Rated Films:** Of the 8 films we will study, 2 are rated R, 4 are PG-13, 1 is PG and 1 is G. If you have personal problems with the content of R or PG-13 films, this is probably not the course for you.

**Watching Films Outside of Class:** You are responsible to view each film BEFORE it is discussed in class. Copies of these films are on reserve in the Sci-Tec Library. Local video store (The Book Table, Sommers, Hastings, Blockbuster, Hollywood Video, etc.) also have copies. If you rent the videos, please return them promptly so that other class members will also have rental access.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Eight film analysis forms		40%
Eight quizzes	8x5	40%
Fieldwork Project		<u>20%</u>
		100%

**Assessment:** Utah State asks all professors to assess their success or failure in achieving stated course goals. In this course I have three primary goals: 1) Help students better understand the United States as a pluralistic, multi cultural nation; 2) Demonstrate that films can be educational as well as entertaining and that we can learn valuable humanistic lessons from watching good movies (i.e., visual literacy); and 3) Create opportunities to practice critical thinking and group communication skills in class.

**Mission Statement:** This course meets the requirements of the History and English Departments’ mission statements and the Folklore Program, too!

## Course Schedule

August 31	Course Introduction
September 7	Folklore, Foodways, and Film: Class Workshop
September 14	<u>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</u> (PG, 95 min) Greek Americans (Quiz #1)
Sept. 21, 28, Oct 5	Foodways Fieldwork. Class will not meet.
October 12	<u>Tortilla Soup</u> (PG-13, 100 min) Mexican-Americans (Quiz #2)
October 19	<u>Big Night</u> ( R, 110 min) Italian-Americans (Quiz #3)
October 26	<u>Babette's Feast</u> (G, 105 min) Danish-French (Quiz #4)
November 2	<u>Chocolat</u> ( PG-13 120 min) French (Quiz #5)
November 9	<u>Supersize Me</u> (PG-13, 100 min) American "Fast Food" (Quiz #6)
November 16	<u>Woman on Top</u> ( R, 93 min) Brazilian, Gay-Americans (Quiz #7)
November 30	<u>What's Cooking</u> (PG-13, 110 min) Multi-Cultural Thanksgiving Quiz #8)
December 7	Last Class Course Evaluation