

HONR 1340 HONORS BSS - SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND ISSUES: FOOD AND CULTURE
FALL 2004 TR 3:00-4:15 OLD MAIN 115 (Call #13359)
DR. SARAH GORDON

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Food and Culture: This interdisciplinary course explores the complex roles of food and consumption in western and non-western cultures from pre-history to the present day, using socio-historical, developmental, and comparative approaches. Food and food habits are universal aspects of the human experience, across geographical and temporal boundaries. We investigate the relation of food to changing and static cultural values, beliefs, attitudes, rituals, and practices. We consider how specific foods, such as chocolate, spices, potatoes and fish have had an impact on society and culture.

Textbook: Tannahill, *Food in History*

- Photocopies of additional required readings, articles, and handouts will be given in class.

Expectations:

- Good on-time attendance, preparation and reading before class, active participation, and interactive group work (including discussion and discussion question worksheets) count!
- Midterm/Final format includes: identifies, short answer, and choice of one short essay. Study guides will be distributed. Exams cover assigned readings from the textbook, handouts and excerpts provided as well as lectures, PowerPoint slides, and video.
- No extensions on the paper and no make-ups on exams without a valid written excuse.
- Term paper: 1 paper 6-7 pp. (length not including the bibliography) on a specific food of *your choice* that is *not* listed on syllabus, with a perspective and theoretical framework of your choice based on the methods of sociology, political science, or anthropology. At least 4 sources minimum must be used and cited, only two of which may be (scholarly) websites. The social sciences databases available at our library may be found at <http://library.usu.edu/Retool/Inabs/results.php?SUBJECT=20&Description=Social%20Sciences>. Lexis-Nexis is also useful <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>. More suggested food-related research resources will be provided in-class. More details on this assignment will be given in class. You will be asked to share for a few short minutes about your research on the day the paper is due, 12/7.
- Do not hesitate to contact me at sgordon@cc.usu.edu with any questions or concerns.
- Syllabus subject to change.
- Refreshments will be provided on some days. *Bon Appétit!*

Grading: 30% Midterm, 35% Final, 25% Paper, 10% Participation, Group work, and Preparation

Other Information:

- Last day to add/drop with no mark on your record is September 20, university-wide policy.
- Academic Integrity policies will be followed http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/honor_system.pdf
- The Honors Webpage is <http://www.usu.edu/honors/>, ph. 797-2715

TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS	HW- READINGS TO FINISH BY EACH THURSDAY
8/31 - Intro.	9/2 – What is culture?	Readings on culture
9/7 - Dawn of Civilization Prehistory, Raw vs. Cooked	9/9 - Meat/Beef	Book pp. xv-38, 118-122 “American Story of Meat” article
9/14 - Ancient	9/16 - Salt	Book pp. 45-top 86, 174-181
9/21 - Medieval: Feast and Famine	9/23 - Bread	Book pp.51-top 53, 74-78
9/28 - Sacred Foods and Taboos, Cannibalism	9/30 - Entomophagy (Insect eating), survival and spectacle	Book pp. 105-115, 211-top 214, “Ape Taboo” article
10/5 - Agricultural Evolutions	10/7 - Corn	Book pp. 124-140, 202-8, 281- 303, <i>Farmageddon</i> excerpt
10/12 - Food and Social Problems	10/14 - Potatoes	Excerpt, “A modest proposal,” Excerpt <i>Humble Spud</i> , Book pp. 214-top 218, 347-371
10/19 - MIDTERM EXAM	10/21 - USA Food Festivals	Excerpt, <i>Cod</i> Book pp.92-102
10/26 - Fish: exploration, trade, slavery	10/28 - Chocolate	Excerpt, <i>True History of Chocolate</i>
11/2 - Food as Medicine and menace	11/4 - Herbs and Spices	Book pp. 147-151, 332-346, 224-top 228
11/9 – Food in France Today: Pain/Vin/Viande La Gastronomie vs. Le Fast Food	11/11 - Sugar/Honey	Excerpt, <i>Fast Food Nation</i> Book pp. 218-223, 230-251, French article
11/16 - Documents: Cookbooks And Cooking Shows	11/18 - Merrill Library Special Collections visit. Class meets in Special Coll, 1 st floor of library.	Book p. 246-247, p. 210 “Vicarious Consumption: Food & TV” article
11/23 – Rituals and Table Manners	11/25 – NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	Book pp. 306-331
11/30 – Documentary Film <i>Supersize Me</i> [PG-13]	12/2 - Film conclusion and discussion	Book pp.141-146, 252-79 “My McDonald’s” article
12/7 - PAPER DUE, in-class discussion of paper topics	12/9 – LAST CLASS CONCLUSIONS, REVIEW	
12/14 FINAL EXAM Tuesday 1:30-3:20 this room		