FLK/ANTH 388: Foodways
Course Schedule – Spring 2019
I reserve the right to modify the schedule at any time. Students will be notified of any changes in advance.

Week 1  Jan 22/24
Introduction to the class: review syllabus, schedule, course website, assignments, etc.
- Long, “General Introduction,” pp. 1-5 (to be completed in class)

Week 2  Jan 29/31
The Foodways Discipline
- Belasco, “Why Study Food?” [link]
- Jones, “Dining on Death Row” [link]
*If you were on death row and had to pick a last meal, what would it be? Write down your choices and bring to class. Be prepared to share/discuss.

Week 3  Feb 5/7
Community and Identity
- Long, “Food in Groups, Community, and Identity,” pp. 49-59 (introduction to part II)
- Belasco, “Identity: Are We What We Eat?” [link]
- Kaplan, “It’s All from One Big Pot: Booya as an Expression of Community,” pp. 60-71
- Theophano, “I Gave Him a Cake: An Interpretation of Two Italian-American Weddings,” pp. 293-299

Week 4  Feb 12/14
Regional Foodways
- Lockwood & Lockwood, “Pasties in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula” [link]
- Lewis, “The Maine Lobster as Regional Icon: Competing Images over Time and Social Class” [link]

Week 5  Feb 19/21
Food and Ethnicity
- Gutierrez, “Cajuns and Crawfish” [link]

Week 6  Feb 26/28
Food as Sacrament: Symbol and Ritual
- O’Brien, “Salmon as Sacrament: First Salmon Ceremonies in the Pacific Northwest” [link]
- Sharon Sherman, “The Passover Seder: Ritual Dynamics, Foodways, and Family Folklore” [link]
Week 7  Mar 5/7
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 8  Mar 12/14
Tuesday: Fieldwork assignment due. Be prepared to discuss your work with the class.
Thursday: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9  Mar 19/21
Food Narratives: Legend, Rumor, and Mythos
*Briefly research a food legend on snopes.com to share with the class.
  • Ellis, “Whispers in an Ice Cream Parlor: Culinary Tourism, Contemporary Legends, and the Urban Interzone” [link]
  • Turner, “Church’s Fried Chick and the Klan: A Rhetorical Analysis of Rumor in the Black Community,” pp. 346-355
  • Sammells, “Folklore, Food, and National Identity: Urban Legends of Llama Meat in La Paz, Bolivia” [link]

Week 10  Mar 26/28
The Cultural Politics of Food
  • Long, “Food as Communication, Performance, and Power,” pp. 281-291 (introduction to part IV)
  • Montaño, “Appropriation and Counterhegemony in South Texas: Food Slurs, Offal Meats, and Blood,” pp. 327-336
  • Williams-Forson, “More than Just the 'Big Piece of Chicken.' The Power of Race, Class, and Food in American Consciousness” [link]
*Optional:
  • Black, “How Watermelons Became a Racist Trope” [link]

Week 11  Apr 2/4
Food and Gender
*Bring in a media image depicting men or women preparing, cooking, serving, or eating food.
  • Adler, “Making Pancakes on Sunday: The Male Cook in Family Tradition” [link]
  • Mechling, “Boy Scouts and the Manly Art of Cooking,” pp. 146-155
  • Freeman and Merskin, “Having It His Way: The Construction of Masculinity in Fast-Food TV Advertising” [link]

Week 12  Apr 9/11
The Food Industry: Corn!
  • Michael Pollan, Chapters 1 & 2 of The Omnivore's Dilemma [link]

Week 13  Apr 16/18
Industry, cont.
  • Unferth, “Cage Wars: A Visit to the Egg Farm.” From Harper’s, November 2014. 9 pp. [link]
Thursday: class trip to Community Farmers Market [confirmed]

Week 14  Apr 23/25
Emerging Trends & Debates: Food Wastage

- UN FAO Report: “Global Food Losses and Food Waste: Extent, Causes, and Prevention” [link]
- Houston-Edwards, “Why Food Labels Don’t Mean What You Think” [link]
- Beans, “How I Learned to Face Food Waste and Plan Smarter” [link]

Week 15  Apr 30/May 2
- Carpenter, Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer
Book review due. Be prepared to discuss.

Week 16  May 6-10
FINALS WEEK
*See WKU Final Exam Schedule for exam date/time.