FLK/ANTH 388 – Spring 2019

Foodways

“Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are.”
-Jean Brillat-Savarin, *The Physiology of Taste*

Course Description
Foodways is a critical investigation of the various intersections between food and culture. Students will examine local and global foodways topics, issues, and debates within the context of an increasingly interconnected world. This course will consider the origins and dynamics of the expanding global food system, the significance of local and regional foodways practices on a global scale, and the contemporary cultural and ethical ramifications of food practices and traditions around the world.

Course Objectives
The objective of this course is to broaden our understanding of the various relationships between peoples and their food customs. We will examine the role food plays in shaping identity, gender construction, ethnicity, and traditions at a personal level and across the globe. We investigate the meanings of food in various contexts and in different cultures, the social dimension of food preparation and consumption, and food in relation to social class, gender, and power. Understanding the various connections between culture, food traditions, and our food consumption habits strengthens our role as active and engaged socially, politically, and environmentally conscious citizens.

Colonnade Goals and Connections Outcomes
This class satisfies the following Colonnade general education goals:
* An appreciation of the complexity and variety in the world’s cultures
* Analyze the development of self in relation to others in society
* The capacity for critical and logical thinking
* Evaluate solutions to real-world social and cultural problems

This class satisfies the Colonnade Connections “Local to Global” student learning outcomes. Students will:
* Analyze food customs and traditions in a variety of social and cultural contexts, locally and globally.
* Examine various ways that local food practices interrelate with global ones.
* Evaluate the consequences of food traditions and practices on global cultures, local communities, the environment, and the world economy. Students will reflect on and evaluate the consequences of personal food choices in these areas, emphasizing social and cultural factors in these decisions and outcomes.

Required Texts:
- Lucy M. Long, *The Food and Folklore Reader*
- Novella Carpenter, *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer*
- misc. readings posted on course website (see course schedule)
Readings are due at the start of the week they are listed on the course schedule. You are expected to arrive in class having completed the readings and made earnest effort to understand them. This means you should be able to answer questions about the readings and contribute to class discussions with informed statements concerning their meanings or possible interpretations. It is also important that you demonstrate an ability to draw connections between various readings, lectures, discussions, and the foodways that exists in your own life.

**Attendance Policy**
Regular attendance is expected. Work missed due to absence will not be allowed to be made up without prior approval or justifying documentation (e.g., doctor’s note, legal summons, etc.). In the event of an absence, you are responsible for acquiring missed material from a fellow classmate.

**Grading**
Please note that unexcused late/missed work will not be graded. (This policy also applies to exams, quizzes, any in-class work/assignments, etc.) Talk to me in advance if you are having trouble completing an assignment or meeting a specific deadline so special arrangements may be discussed.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes x10, 10 pts each</td>
<td>100*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food sharing</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Field Interview</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Book review</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30**</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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*Quizzes will cover readings listed for that week. See course schedule.

**This grade includes in-class assignments, discussion participation, field trips, etc.

***Students are responsible for keeping up with their own grades. Please use the above grading scale to do so.

- Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. There is a zero tolerance policy for acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.). Please refer to the WKU Student Handbook for details on the university’s policy regarding academic offenses. Plagiarism FAQ here.

- Use of cell phones, tablets, or similar devices during class is not permitted. Laptops are fine provided their use is class related. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the deduction of participation points and/or dismissal from class. (Possible exceptions under certain conditions.)

**Notice**
In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.
Folklore Minor
Undergraduate students at Western have a rare opportunity to take a broad variety of folklore courses and also to
minor in Folklore. A Folklore Minor is fun, challenging, and involves many fascinating topics related to
contemporary American life. It also helps you to develop valuable and important critical and problem solving
skills for use in the complex personal, social, occupational, and political environments in which we work and
live. These skills will make you a better candidate for employment, for admission into graduate programs in
many fields, and for advancement on just about any career path. The Department of Folk Studies and
Anthropology also offers a Masters Degree in folklore. For more information, see Mr. Kaufkins or the Folk
Studies home page.

Popular Culture Studies Major
This course counts as an elective in the major in Popular Culture Studies. This program offers WKU
undergraduates the chance to broaden their understanding of the arts and culture of everyday life including such
areas as television, film, music, sports, advertising, customs and rituals. Through innovative interdisciplinary
coursework the major helps students critically analyze a wide range of popular cultural forms, their uses by
audiences, and their impact on the broader social, political and economic landscape. If you are interested in
learning more about this exciting and innovative program, contact your instructor or check out the Popular
Culture Studies website at www.wku.edu/pop.

“Our eating turns nature into culture, transforming the body of the world into our bodies and minds.”

-Michael Pollan, The Omnivore's Dilemma