Anth 365: Food and Culture (Online)
Spring Quarter 2017: April 3 to June 16, 2017

Instructor: Gennie Nguyen
Email: gnguyen@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: by appointment only
Google hangout for video or chat, username: nguyen.gennie
Skype username: nguyen.gennie

GE: Marnie Atkins
Email: matkins@uoregon.edu

Course Description and Learning Objectives
Food is a biological need of humans. Yet, we assign a plethora of cultural, social, and political economic meanings; these meanings, in turn, influence our food choices, access to food, attitudes towards food, and food behaviors. The objective of this class is to give students an eclectic look at how food is examined in anthropology from different angles. Specifically, we will consider:

- The topic of food from differing theoretical foundations in anthropology, including from the perspectives of bioculturalism, structuralism, cultural capital, and materialism;
- Historical and contemporary analyses of sugar, milk, chicken, and fat commodities;
- How food is interconnected with identities of race, social class, sexuality, and gender;
- Analyses of famine, malnutrition, and hunger;
- Food justice and food-related social movements;
- Debates within the topics of food security, sovereignty, and rights;
- Ability to use ethnographic methods, particularly participant-observation, to investigate and critically reflect on how individuals and society interact with and experience food.

Course Format
This course is designed to be completely online. Please make sure you have all the tools to be successful in this class. The course is delivered on a computer using Canvas. This learning management site will allow you to complete academic work on your computer. The syllabus, videos, readings, lectures, and assignments are all included on the course site. Issues related to Canvas should be directed to the UO Academic Extension Distance Education, email: Disted@uoregon.edu

Be computer ready!
For this class, you will need

- A camera that can take both video and still pictures, such as ones commonly found on cell phones, and the ability to load those videos and pictures onto Canvas.
- Chrome, Safari, or Firefox browser
- Adobe Reader software to access readings (available for free download at http://get.adobe.com/reader/)
- A webcam (usually built into the computer) for video chats for office hours
- A working Skype account or Google account (for Google hangouts) for office hours
- Word-processing software (available for UO students to download Microsoft Office Suite for free at https://it.uoregon.edu/about-office-365)
**Required Text**
Two books are required for class. Both will be on available reserve at the Knight Library to check out for up to 4 hours. Sylvia Tara’s book is also available as an audiobook.

- Sidney Mintz’s Sweetness and Power
- Sylvia Tara’s The Secret Life of Fat

All other required readings and films are hyperlinked from the syllabus. For most of the readings, you will need your UO VPN (username@uoregon.edu) username and password to access.

**Expectations and Grade Evaluation**
Students’ grades will be determined by 4 Ethnographic Assignments, which will count for 60% of the final grade (15% each) and 4 reading quizzes, which will count for 40% of the final grade (10% each). Instructions for the assignments and quizzes will be posted in Canvas.

Lectures, assignments, and quizzes will be posted onto Canvas at least two weeks ahead of time so that you may work ahead if that works better for your schedule. However, you are required to submit assignments and complete quizzes on time according to the scheduled due dates stated on the syllabus.

All assignments and quizzes are due on the Monday at 8AM after the topic is scheduled to be covered. For example, during Week 2, we will cover the topic of sugar. The assignment on sugar is due Week 3 on Monday at 8AM.

**Accommodations:** Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented and undocumented learning difficulties. I interpret the cause of learning difficulties broadly as both psychological as well as social. Please meet with me discuss these accommodations no later than April 10. You may also wish to contact the Office of Accessible Education in 164 Oregon Hall (541-346-1155, uoaec@uoregon.edu). Their advisers can help you acquire a letter verifying your disability.

**Grading**
I do not anticipate a curve for this class. Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth, and the grading scale to be used is as follows:

- **A+** = 97.5-100%
- **A** = 92.5-97.4%
- **A-** = 90-92.4%
- **B+** = 87.5-89.9%
- **B** = 82.5-87.4%
- **B-** = 80-82.4%
- **C+** = 77.5-79.9%
- **C** = 72.5-77.4%
- **C-** = 70-72.4%
- **D+** = 67.5-69.9%
- **D** = 62.5-67.4%
- **D-** = 60-62.4%
- **F** = 59.9% or below

If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course

Expected levels of performance:
- **A+** Quality of student's performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations required for an A grade. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.
- **A** Quality of performance is outstanding relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at the highest level.
- **B** Quality of performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at a high level.
- **C** Quality of performance meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content.
- **D** Quality of performance is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course, but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.
F: Quality of performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.

Contacting Me
If you email me, please put Anth 365 in the first part of the subject line. In most cases, I will email you back within 48 business hours. Also, as you would with work emails, please use a salutation, introduce yourself, be aware of how you present yourself in writing, and sign your name.

If you need a response sooner than 48 hours, you may text or call me on my cellphone at 503-740-0912. Please only use this contact method if it is absolutely necessary.

Reading Schedule

Week 1: Overview of the class and Theoretical Foundation
- Pelto, et al’s The Biocultural Perspective in Nutritional Anthropology
- Mintz’s Sweetness and Power, read Introduction and Chapter 1, skim Chapter 2

Week 2: Sugar
- Mintz’s Sweetness and Power, skim Chapter 3, read Chapter 4 and 5
- Nabhan’s Rooting Out the Causes of Disease: Why Diabetes is So Common Among Desert Dwellers
- Film: Sugar Coated Documentary (make sure you choose the 60 min abridged version rather than the 90 min version)

Week 3: Milk
- Wiley’s Re-Imagining Milk: Cultural and Biological Perspectives
- Yamato’s Jordan Peele explains “Get Out’s” creepy milk scene, ponders the recent link between dairy and hate
- Film: Milk: Investigating the Nutritional Value of Milk

Ethnographic Assignment #1 Due: Sugar

Week 4: Chicken
- Strifflier’s Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America’s Favorite Food, pp 1-90
- Williams-Forson’s More than Just the “Big Piece of Chicken”: The Power of Race, Class, and Food in American Consciousness
- Film: The Trouble with Chicken

Quiz #1

Week 5: Fat
- Tara’s the Secret Life of Fat, the entire book

Ethnographic Assignment #2 Due: Meat

Week 6: Food and Identity
- Guthman’s Fast Food/Organic Food Reflexive Tastes and the Making of “Yuppie Chow”
- Roseberry’s The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States
- Carrington’s Feeding Lesbigay Families
- Slocum’s Thinking Race Through Corporeal Feminist Theory: Divisions and Intimacies at the Minneapolis Farmers’ Market
• Film: Soul Food Junkies

Quiz #2

Week 7: Food and Gender
• Carney’s Reconsidering Sweetness and Power Through a Gendered Lens
• Bordo’s Not Just “a White Girl’s Thing”: The Changing Face of Food and Body Image Problems
• Parasecoli’s Feeding Hard Bodies: Food and Masculinities in Men’s Fitness Magazines
• Van Esterik’s The Politics of Breastfeeding: An Advocacy Update
• Film: The Milky Way

Ethnographic Assignment #3 Due: Organic

Week 8: Famines, Malnutrition, and Hunger in a Time of Plenty
• Himmelgreen, et al’s Anthropological Perspectives on the Global Food Crisis
• Poppendieck’s Want Amid Plenty: from Hunger to Inequality
• Albritton’s Between Obesity and Hunger
• Film: Food Stamped

Quiz #3

Week 9: Food Justice and Food-related Social Movements
• Nonini’s The Local-Food Movement and the Anthropology of Food Systems
• Leith’s Slow Food and Politics of “Virtuous Globalisation
• Levoke’s Learning Democracy through Food Justice Movements
• Schnell’s Food with a Farmer’s Face: Community Supported Agriculture in the United States
• Film: Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story

Ethnographic Assignment #4: Food Stamps

Week 10: Food Security and Food Sovereignty, and Food Rights
TBA
Quiz #4

Finals Week