Spring 2017

ANTH 427: Food, Health, and Society

Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:15 in Saunders 345
Instructor: Prof. Eirik Saethe
Email: saethe@hawaii.edu
Office: Saunders 306
Office Phone: 956-3995
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:30

Course Content
Over the years, the ways in which people produce, share, and consume food has changed. Economic concerns, medical narratives, aesthetic tastes, advertising, production techniques, and globalization are just a few issues that shape our habits toward eating. This course examines food as both a commodity and a symbol. On one hand, food is an article of trade that is bought, sold, and exchanged. On the other, food can act as a symbol through which notions of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and sexuality are expressed: food is good to think. Consequently, habits and changes in foodways impact and are impacted by a variety of cultural, societal, and political-economic factors. Drawing from a wide range of social contexts this course introduces students to the anthropology of food.

Student Learning Objectives
At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
• Use appropriate research tools to formulate a scholarly argument within the context of medical anthropology.
• Examine the ways in which ideas regarding food, food production, nutrition, obesity, and hunger are socially and culturally constructed.
• Understand importance of food as a locus of power, identity, and economy.
• Recognize the value of anthropology in understanding eating behaviors.
• Draw from academic readings and anthropological perspectives to develop and improve writing skills.

Course Readings:
All readings for this class are posted as pdf documents on Laulima. If you choose to print the readings, be aware that (1) students enrolled in an anthropology course receive $40 of free printing in the computer lab on the third floor of Saunders and (2) there is free printing at Campus Center if your bring your own paper.
Grading and Student Evaluation

Reverse Outline and Summary (15%) – Due on Monday Week 4 or 5
Choose ONE of the readings for the week. At the top of your paper, write the central claim of the article in two sentences or less. In no less than eight pages, make an outline of the article as follows:

1) Section Title
   a) Using complete sentences, summarize the main points of each section. Each point should have its own heading letter (a, b, c, and so on). In parenthesis, add the page and paragraph number.
      i) List the evidence that the author uses to support the claim. This includes data, ethnography, or citing the ideas and theories of others. Each piece of evidence should have its own heading letter (i, ii, iii, and so on).

Then using the same reading, write a text summary. In two pages, summarize the author’s overall argument and demonstrate how the author supports this argument using details to illustrate your assertion. Your paper should have a clear introduction and conclusion. For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or a bibliography. I will give written feedback on papers and during lectures I will review the important points of the articles and provide oral feedback. This exercise will improve reading comprehension and demonstrate techniques of writing.

Summary and Analysis (15%) – Due on Monday Week 6 or 8
Choose one reading and write a two page text summary as outlined above. In an additional two pages, write an analysis of the week’s theme. Making reference to all other readings from the week, discuss the contributions that the author(s) makes in understanding the topic. For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or a bibliography. I will give written feedback on papers and during lectures I will review the important points of the articles and provide oral feedback. This exercise will improve reading comprehension and demonstrate techniques of writing.

Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography (10%) – Due March 8 (Wednesday Week 9)
In 200-300 words, concisely summarize your forthcoming research paper. Your abstract should (1) give a brief background to the topic of your paper, (2) the anthropological approach you are going to use, and (3) the data that will be marshaled to support your conclusions. Do not ask questions, give answers. Students must also submit a preliminary bibliography containing at least six citations. At least three of these must be anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by anthropologists). Please bold the anthropological citations. I will give written feedback and during lectures I will review the key features of abstracts and provide oral feedback. This exercise will ensure that paper topics are thought out and that bibliographic references have been identified.
Research Paper (30%) – First Draft due April 12 (Week 13)
Final Draft due May 3 (Week 16)

Papers should focus on a topic relevant to the course and be anthropological. Undergraduate student papers must be between ten to twelve pages long (not including the abstract and bibliography) and cite at least ten academic sources. Graduate student papers must be between fourteen to sixteen pages long and cite at least twenty academic sources. At least seven of these must be anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by anthropologists). Please bold the anthropological citations in your bibliography. Papers can incorporate a fieldwork component but are not required to do so. I will give written feedback and in addition students will be broken into small groups to critique one another’s rough drafts. I will also give oral feedback at this time.

Class Participation and Peer Review (10%)
Throughout the class, discussion is encouraged. Students that talk in class and answer questions will receive higher participation scores. In Week 14, students will be divided into groups to formally critique first drafts. Each student will be required to read the papers of other group members and provide written feedback.

Final Exam (20%) – Friday May 12, 2:15-4:15
The final exam will be held in our usual classroom. It will consist of essay questions and cover all material in the course, including readings and lectures.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-97</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90-97</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>88-80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>80-87</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>87-80</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>80-77</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>77-70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Style and Formatting Guidelines
All student assignments for this course must follow the standards outlined in the document ‘Guidelines for Papers’, which is available on Laulima. Any paper not conforming to ALL of these guidelines will be penalized.

Late Papers
Unless otherwise stated, papers are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments (including first drafts) will lose ten percent for every day that elapses and on the sixth day, the student will receive a zero.

Classroom Policies
- Be on time. Turn off cell phones. No computers are allowed in class.
- All course handouts, readings, and assignments can be found on Laulima.
- Students are responsible for all course content, whether or not they are in class.
- You are responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
- For more information about writing resources on campus and online, go to http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm.
Class Schedule

Week 1: Thinking about Anthropology and Food
1/9 Introduction to the class

Week 2: Early Perspectives
1/16 No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
• The culinary triangle – Claude Levi-Strauss
• Deciphering a meal – Mary Douglas
• The abominable pig – Marvin Harris

Week 3: History and Power
• Chapter 1: The sexual politics of meat
• Chapter 8: The distortion of the vegetarian body
• Chapter 1: Rationing the inexplicable
• Chapter 9: Settlements and families

Week 4: Gender and Race
• Chapter 4: “Pork or women”
• Chapter 5: Soul food

Week 5: Religion
• Chapter 4: Pray the weight away
  • Chapter 5: “Don’t eat that”
  • Epilogue: Bodies in crisis?

Week 6: Chronic Illness


Week 7: Water
2/20 No class: President’s Day

Week 8: Anorexia
  • Chapter 3: Knowing through the body
  • Chapter 4: The complexities of being anorexic

  • Chapter 5: Abject relations with food
  • Chapter 6: “Me and my disgusting body”

Week 9: Food Production: Fruit
  • Chapter 3: Segregation on the farm

  • Chapter 4: How the poor suffer
  • Chapter 6: Because they are lower to the ground
Week 10: Food Production: Slaughter
   • Chapter 1: Hidden in plain sight
   • Chapter 3: Kill floor
   • Chapter 6: Killing at close range
   • Chapter 8: Quality of control

Week 11: Globalization: Coffee
   • Chapter 2: Neoliberal coffee
   • Chapter 4: Village coffee
   • Chapter 7: International coffee

Spring Break 3/27-3/31

Week 12: Globalization: Coca-Cola
   • Chapter 2: Glocalizing Coca-Cola
   • Chapter 4: A network of perspectives

Week 13: King Corn
4/10 Film: *King Corn* (Part 1) 90 minutes
4/12 Film: *King Corn* (Part 2)
FIRST DRAFT DUE

Week 14: Critique Week
4/17 Peer Review
4/19 Peer Review

Week 15: Globalization: Curry


**Week 16: National Identity**

   - Chapter 3: Food, power, and female identity in Florence


5/3  Class Review
    FINAL DRAFT DUE

**Week 17: Final Exam**

Friday May 12, 2:15-4:15 in Saunders 345