FOOD AND HISTORY
FALL 2017

Course Description
This class considers the ways in which the production and consumption of food fundamentally shaped the political, economic, social, and ecological structures of American society from the colonial period to the present. Organized thematically, this course will explore how the facts and functions of eating relate to political movements, social justice, ideas of gender, racial prejudice, cultural constructivism, industrial processes, class divisions, patterns of consumption, health, and, most importantly, immigration and identity. This is an experiential class designed to make you think about your own relationships to food as a consumer, a producer, and as an historical actor.
FOOD AND HISTORY

Course Objectives

Students will increase their knowledge of historical and contemporary systems of food production, distribution, and consumption.

Students will augment their understanding of U.S. History, particularly in regards to immigration.

Students will hone their writing, speaking, and researching skills through debate, class discussion, writing assignments, oral history interviews, and presentations.

Required Texts

These texts are available at the Samford University Bookstore and online. Ebooks are acceptable. Supplemental readings will be posted on Moodle.

Frederick Douglass Opie, *Hog and Hominy: Soul Food from Africa to America*

Yong Chen, *Chop Suey, USA: The Story of Chinese Food in America*

Jane Ziegelman, *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement*

Jeffrey Pilcher, *Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food*

Course Assignments

- Reading Responses / Discussion 20%
- Eavesdropping Exercise 5%
- Recipe & Oral History 20%
- Podcast 20%
- Ingredient Paper 25%
- Class Dinner and Reflection 10%

PER UNIVERSITY POLICY, you will be allowed up to 4 absences. However, I expect your attendance and participation at every class period and activity. Students may be exempt through university business and emergencies (requires documentation).

All assignments are due on the specified date, regardless of your presence in class. I will deduct 10 points for each subsequent day they are late.
A Note on Technology

Consider this class an ancient technology zone. You will not be allowed to use laptops, computers, or tablets to take notes unless you have an academic accommodation from Disability Resources for a specific technology. It is also possible to have DR recruit a note-taker for you.

You will take notes the old-fashioned way: with pen and paper. Learn to doodle.

As you would expect, all cell phones should be placed on silent (NOT vibrate) when you enter the classroom. We will have “tech breaks” during longer lectures.

Grading Scale

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Academic Integrity: All submissions must represent ORIGINAL work with sources clearly and correctly documented. I have zero tolerance for cheaters. If you have questions regarding what constitutes “plagiarism” in your written work, come see me.

Disability Services: If you are registered with Disability Resources and have had your accommodation letter sent to me, please make an appointment so that we may discuss necessary arrangements. If you have a disability or have not contacted DR, please call ext. 2980 or visit their office. I must receive a notice from DR before I can make academic adjustments.

Emergency Readiness: RAVE is the method of communication during an emergency. If you have not registered for RAVE alerts, please go to the My Contact Information box on your Portal homepage. It is important that you know what to do in the case of a campus emergency.

Title IX: In accordance with federal policy all University employees are required to report information related to discrimination and harassment which includes sexual assault, relationship violence, bullying, stalking, and sexual harassment. If you wish to speak with an employee who is not required to report information, you can find a list of confidential resources on the Title IX website.

The professor reserves the right to alter or modify the menu at any time during the semester. You will be notified of such changes in advance via email and Moodle.
~ Amuse Bouche ~

Why Study Food?

- August 29: Introduction to course
- August 31: Food writing and methods

Food as Historical Inquiry

- September 5: *Planet Taco*, Chapters 1-4
- September 7: *Planet Taco*, Chapters 5-7

~ Appetizer ~

A Revolution in Eating

- September 12: Black Rice: Africa in America
- September 14: *Hog and Hominy*, Chapters 1 and 2; Excerpt from James McWilliams, *A Revolution in Eating* (Moodle)
  - Eavesdropping Essay due

- September 19: Colonial Foodways: A Meeting of Worlds
- September 21: Excerpts from James McWilliams, *A Revolution in Eating* (Moodle)

Building Houses out of Chicken Legs

- September 26: What the Slaves Ate, and Why that Matters Now
- September 28: *Hog and Hominy*, Chapters 3 and 4

- October 3: Can Food be Racist?

~ Entrée ~

Coming to America

- October 10: FALL BREAK
- October 12: *97 Orchard*, Chapters 1 and 2
  - Recipe, Oral History, and Transcription Due
October 17: Meat versus Rice
October 19: *97 Orchard*, Chapters 3, 4 and 5

**Cultural Transformations**

- October 24: Empire’s Food-print
- October 26: *Chop Suey, USA*, Chapters 1, 2, and 3; “The Life and Times of Miss Chiquita,” from *Banana Cultures*, by John Soluri (Moodle)
- October 31: Lost in Translation
- November 2: *Chop Suey, USA*, Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7; Excerpt from *The Joy Luck Club*, by Amy Tan (Moodle)

**Class and Consumption**

- November 7: Podcasting Workshop
- November 9: Podcasting Workshop

- November 14: Super-Size Me
  - **Ingredient Paper Due**
- November 16: *Hog and Hominy*, Chapter 5; Excerpts from *Food of a Younger Land* (Moodle)

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**Dessert**

**Food and Mechanisms of Postwar Power**

- November 21: Podcast Troubleshooting (required)
- November 23: THANKSGIVING BREAK

- November 28: You Can’t Eat ‘Rights’
- November 30: *Hog and Hominy*, Chapters 6 and 7; “Campbell’s Soup and the Long Shelf Life of Traditional Gender Roles,” by Katherine Parkin (Moodle)

**The Past in the Present**

- December 5: Airing our work
- December 7: PREPARING FOR THE FINAL, NO CLASS

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**Cheese Course**

Class Dinner and Reflection at Final Exam