ANTHRO 133F/1: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

Class Time: TR 11-12:15pm
Class Location: Fowler A103B
Professor: Akhil Gupta
Office: 382 Haines Hall
Office Hours: M 10:30-11:30 am; Tu 1:30-2:30 pm
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Course Description

This course will look at the production, consumption, and distribution of food, with a particular emphasis on the culture of food. Food is a wonderful means to look at a range of topics: ecological history, class, poverty, hunger, ethnicity, nationalism, capitalism, gender, race, and sexuality. Food is at once the most obvious and least explored window into the shaping of identities, desires, and needs in the contemporary world.

Course Requirements

1) Mid-term exam: Tuesday, February 5 in class (40% of grade)
2) Final exam: Friday, March 22, 11:30 am-2:30 pm (60% of grade)
3) Attendance at all lectures and screenings. Exams will depend heavily on the content of lectures and films shown in class, as well as the required class readings.

Please note carefully: The honor code must be respected at all times. Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously. Any student caught copying or plagiarizing will face the maximum punishment allowed by the Honor Code, including being expelled from UCLA. Plagiarism includes copying text from websites without proper citations or footnotes.

Grade disputation will not be allowed in any circumstances.

Please be forewarned about the following rule. You will be expected to maintain a professional demeanor in all your dealings with the instructor. This includes emails, other written communications, and oral communication with the instructor. By “professional demeanor” is meant that no form of behavior is acceptable which may be experienced as harassing, intimidatory, abusive, or hostile. Failure to observe this rule will result in your expulsion from this class and your case will be referred to the Dean of Students. Please see this helpful guide about proper email etiquette:

http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor.

In general, I strongly prefer that you communicate with me in person by meeting me after class, or during my office hours. I do not have time to read long emails, and, although I will do my best to
reply, I cannot guarantee that I will respond to messages sent by email. If you have to reach me urgently, please meet me after class, or during office hours, or leave me a message on my office telephone number.

If you cannot be present at the final exam, please DO NOT register for this class. The date and time of the final exam cannot be changed. No one will be given the test at an alternative date and time.

**Students with Disabilities**

I will make every effort to accommodate students with disabilities. If you wish to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability, please inform your instructor and contact the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206-6083 (telephone device for the deaf). Website: www.osd.ucla.edu

**Required Readings**


**Films**

*Eat Drink Man Woman*. Directed by Ang Lee, 1994 (NR), 123 mins.
*Fish is our Life!* Directed by Peregrine Beckman, 1993, 27 mins.
*Food, Inc.* Directed by Robert Kenner, 2008 (PG), 91 mins.
*Supersize Me*. Written and directed by Morgan Spurlock, 2004 (PG-13), 100 mins.
*Tampopo*. Written and directed by Juzo Itami, 1986 (NR), 115 mins.

Note:
One film above that has been rated NR has material that might have earned it an R rating. Please let me know if you have any objections to the viewing of such material as soon as possible.
SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSIONS AND READINGS
(Readings should be completed before the class session for which they are assigned)

WEEK 1
Jan. 8 Introduction

Jan. 10 The Global Movement of Food
   Reading: Mintz *Sweetness and Power*, Chs. 1-2

WEEK 2
Jan. 15 Sugar; Some Classical Anthropological Approaches To Food
   Reading: Mintz *Sweetness and Power*, Chs. 3-5
   Sahlins, Marshall “La Pensée Bourgeoise: Western Society as Culture”
   Recommended: Douglas, Mary “Deciphering a Meal” in *Food and Culture*

Jan. 17 FILM: *Tampopo* (Part 1)

WEEK 3
Jan. 22 Food and Identity (ethnic identity; national identity)
   Reading: Allison, Anne “Japanese Mothers and Obentos” in *Food and Culture*
   Ochs, Elinor, Clotilde Pontecorvo & Alessandra Fasulo “Socializing Taste”
   FILM: *Tampopo* (conclusion)

Jan. 24 Food Taboos and Prohibitions
   Reading: Bynum, Caroline Walker “Fast, Feast and Flesh” in *Food and Culture*
   Bible: Leviticus

WEEK 4
Jan. 29 Globalization and Food: Fish
   Reading: Bestor, Theodore *Tsukiji*, Chs. 1, 2

Jan. 31 Global Fish contd.
   FILM: *Fish is our Life!*
   Reading: Bestor, Theodore *Tsukiji*, Chs. 4, 8 (skim 5)

WEEK 5
Feb. 5 Midterm exam

Feb. 7 Food and Family; Kinship
   FILM: *Eat Drink Man Woman* (Part 1)
WEEK 6
Feb. 12 Exam Review
  FILM: *Eat Drink Man Woman* (conclusion)

Feb. 14 Food and Gender
  Reading: Bordo, Susan “Hunger as Ideology”
  Recommended: Adler, Thomas “Making Pancakes on Sunday”

WEEK 7
Feb. 19 Fast Food
  FILM: *Supersize Me* (Part 1)
  Reading: Schlosser, Eric *Fast Food Nation* (Chs. 1-4)

Feb. 21 Fast Food; Slow Food
  FILM: *Supersize Me* (Conclusion)
  Reading: Schlosser, Eric *Fast Food Nation* (Chs. 5-Epilogue)
  Recommended: Fantasia, Rick “Fast Food in France”

WEEK 8
Feb. 26 Industrial Food: Food and Class
  Reading: Ozeki, Ruth *My Year of Meats*
  Recommended: Goody, Jack *Cooking, Cuisine and Class*

Feb. 28 Industrial Food contd.
  FILM: *Food, Inc.*
  Reading: Roseberry, William “The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States”

WEEK 9
March 5 Consuming Industrial Food: Adulteration, Food Safety
  FILM: *Food, Inc.* (conclusion)
  Reading: Yan, Yunxiang “Food Safety and Social Risk in Contemporary China”

March 7 Vegetarianism and Veganism
  Reading: Singer, Peter “All Animals Are Equal”
  Recommended: Chapple, Christopher K. “Nonviolence, Buddhism, and Animal Protection”
WEEK 10
March 12  Hunger and Food Aid
    Reading: Clapp, Jennifer “The Political Economy of Food Aid in an Era of Agricultural Biotechnology” in Food and Culture
    Patel, Raj Stuffed and Starved, Chs. 1-3, 10

March 14  Conclusion: What Can We Do?
    Evaluations & Wrap-Up

March 22  11:30 am-2:30 pm  FINAL EXAM