ANTHRO 133F: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

Class Time: 9:30-10:45 am  
Class Location: Haines 39  
Professor: Akhil Gupta  
Office: 324A Haines Hall  
Office Hours: T 1:00-2:45 pm  
Phone: 310-794-7969  
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Teaching Assistants:  
Aditi Halbe: Email: adithalbe@ucla.edu  
Office Hours: T 12 noon-1:00 pm; R 2:00-3:00 pm; Haines 360  
Sections: 1C T 8:00-8:50 am Haines 314  
1D T 11:00-11:50 am Haines 314  
1F R 8:00-8:50 am Haines 314

Jananie Kalyanaraman: Email: jananie@ucla.edu  
Office Hours: F 10 am-12 noon Haines 360  
Sections: 1A M 2:00-2:50 pm Haines 310  
1B M 3:00-3:50 pm Haines 310  
1L F 12:00-12:50 pm Haines 314

Cassandra Markoe: Email: cmarkoe@ucla.edu  
Office Hours: T 11:00 am-12:00 noon; T 1:00-2:00 pm; Haines 360  
Sections: 1E T 12:00-12:50 pm Haines 314  
1G R 2:00-2:50 pm Haines 314  
1H R 3:00-3:50 pm Haines 314

Clayton Robertson: Email: ctrobertson@ucla.edu  
Office Hours: T 11:00 am-12 noon; T 2:00-3:00 pm; Haines 360  
Sections: 1I F 9:00-9:50 am Haines 314  
1J F 10:00-10:50 am Haines 314  
1K F 11:00-11:50 am Haines 314

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: in class **Tuesday, February 3** (30% of grade). Please note that the midterm cannot be rescheduled for any reason. Please be on time; latecomers will not be admitted.

2) Final exam: **Wednesday, March 18, 11:30 am-2:30 pm** (30% of grade). Please note that the final cannot be rescheduled for any reason. Please be on time; latecomers will not be admitted.

3) Attendance and participation in lectures, screenings, and sections (20% of grade). Exams will draw upon the content of lectures and films shown in class, as well as the discussions in section.

4) Assignments for section (20% of grade). The first assignment is a food diary (due **Tuesday January 27th**; 5% of grade). The second assignment is a food ethnography of 1500-1800 words (due **Thursday, March 5th**; 15% of grade).

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. Violations of the honor code include the following:

* **Academic stealing** refers to the theft of exams or exam answers, of papers or take-home exams composed by others, and of research notes, computer files, or data collected by others.

* **Academic cheating, collusion, and fraud** refer to having others do your schoolwork or allowing them to present your work as their own; using unauthorized materials during exams; inventing data or bibliography to support a paper, project, or exam; purchasing tests, answers, or papers from any source whatsoever; submitting (nearly) identical papers to two classes.

* **Plagiarism** refers to the use of another’s work without full acknowledgment, whether by suppressing the reference, neglecting to identify direct quotations, paraphrasing closely or at length without citing sources, spuriously identifying quotations or data, or cutting and pasting the work of several (usually unidentified) authors into a single undifferentiated whole. Plagiarism includes copying text from websites without proper citations or footnotes.

Please be forewarned about the following rule. **You will be expected to maintain a professional demeanor in all your dealings with the instructor and the TAs.** This includes emails, other written communications, and oral communication with the instructor and TAs. 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.
Grade disputations will not be allowed. All grades are final and non-negotiable, unless there is a mathematical error in the computation of your final grade. Your enrollment in this class will be interpreted as a sign of your acceptance of this policy. Hence, if this policy is unacceptable to you, please reconsider your decision to enroll in this course.

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.
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.

Readings on website denoted by W
Readings in course reader denoted by R
SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSIONS AND READINGS
(Readings should be completed before the class session for which they are assigned)

WEEK 1
T Jan. 6  Introduction

R Jan. 8  The Global Movement of Food
Reading:  Mintz, Sidney *Sweetness and Power*, Chs. 1-2
          Gupta, Akhil “A Different History of the Present” (W, R)

WEEK 2
T Jan. 13 Sugar; Some Classical Anthropological Approaches To Food
Reading:  Mintz, Sidney *Sweetness and Power*, Chs. 3-5
          Sahlins, Marshall “La Pensée Bourgeoise: Western Society as Culture” (W, R)
          Recommended: Douglas, Mary “Deciphering a Meal” in *Food and Culture* (W, R)

R Jan. 15 FILM: *Tampopo* (Part 1)

WEEK 3
T Jan. 20 Food and Identity (ethnic identity; national identity)
Reading:  Allison, Anne “Japanese Mothers and Obentos” in *Food and Culture* (W)
          Ochs, Elinor, Clotilde Pontecorvo & Alessandra Fasulo “Socializing Taste” (W, R)
          FILM: *Tampopo* (conclusion)

R Jan. 22 Global Fish
Reading:  Bestor, Theodore *Tsukiji*, Chs. 1, 2

WEEK 4
T Jan. 27 FILM: *Fish is our Life!*
Reading:  Bestor, Theodore *Tsukiji*, Chs. 4, 8 (skim 5)
Assignment Due: Food Diary

R Jan. 29 Food Taboos and Prohibitions
Reading:  Bynum, Caroline Walker “Fast, Feast and Flesh” in *Food and Culture* (W)
          Bible: Leviticus (W, R)

WEEK 5
T Feb. 3  Midterm exam

R Feb. 5 FILM: *Eat Drink Man Woman* (Part 1)
WEEK 6
T Feb. 10 Food and Gender; Food Ethnography
   FILM: *Eat Drink Man Woman* (conclusion)
   Reading: Bordo, Susan “Hunger as Ideology” (W, R)
   Recommended: Adler, Thomas “Making Pancakes on Sunday” (W, R)

R Feb. 12 Food and Gender; Vegetarianism and Veganism
   Reading: Singer, Peter “All Animals Are Equal” (W, R)
   Recommended: Chapple, Christopher K. “Nonviolence, Buddhism, and Animal Protection” (W, R)

WEEK 7
T Feb. 17 Fast Food
   FILM: *Supersize Me* (Part 1)
   Reading: Schlosser, Eric *Fast Food Nation* (Chs. 1-4)

R Feb. 19 Fast Food; Slow Food
   FILM: *Supersize Me* (Conclusion)
   Reading: Schlosser, Eric *Fast Food Nation* (Chs. 5-Epilogue)
   Recommended: Yan, Yunxiang “Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald’s in Beijing” in *Food and Culture* (W)

WEEK 8
T Feb. 24 Supply Chains; Agricultural Labor
   FILM: *Food Chains* (Part 1)

R Feb. 26 Guest Lecture: Sanjay Rawal (Director of *Food Chains*)
   FILM: *Food Chains* (Conclusion)

WEEK 9
T March 3 Industrial Food; Food Safety
   Reading: Ozeki, Ruth *My Year of Meats*
   Recommended: Yan, Yunxiang “Food Safety and Social Risk in Contemporary China” (W, R)

R March 5 Food and Class
   Reading: Roseberry, William “The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States” (W, R)
   Recommended: Goody, Jack *Cooking, Cuisine and Class* (W, R)
Assignment Due: *Food Ethnography*
WEEK 10
T March 10  Hunger and Food Aid
    Reading:  Clapp, Jennifer “The Political Economy of Food Aid in an Era of Agricultural
              Biotechnology” in Food and Culture (W)
              Patel, Raj  Stuffed and Starved, Chs. 1-3, 10

R March 12  Conclusion: What Can We Do?
            Evaluations & Wrap-Up

W March 18  **Final Exam**
            11:30 am-2:30 pm