ANT324L: Food and Culture
Prof. Aimee J Hosemann
MWF 9-9:50 a.m., SAC 4.174
Office: SAC 5.166
Office hours: M/W 2-4 p.m.
Or by appointment
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Other readings per syllabus, which will be available as journal articles through the university library website, or as URLs that will be given in the syllabus. I have also listed a few extra readings that might be particularly interesting or useful to you individually. These are for your own personal edification. Also, please explore the journal *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture* for great, readable scholarly pieces, lively food journalism, interviews, photos, recipes, and poetry.

Course description:
In the era of competing Paleo and Whole-Foods Plant-based diets and a burgeoning class of celebrity chefs, anthropologists have been asking: when we eat, what else are we consuming? This course examines cultural and linguistic anthropological views on the ways we eat, and how we talk about what we eat, in the contemporary era. We consider not just what's on the plate or in the smoothie, but also how food - and the effect of food on the body - influences eaters' expressions of personal identity and their relations with other people. We will combine scholarly literature with videos and readings about food topics that circulate in popular culture, considering how flows of dietary images and discourses shape race/ethnicity, gender, social class, and other identifications.

I reserve the right to change the syllabus according to the needs of the class.

Assignments (total points possible: 200)
2 journals 30
6 quizzes 30
Individual recipe 15
**Midterm** 50
**Final** 75

90-93.999%=A-; 94.000+=A
80-83.999%=B-; 84.000-89.999=B
70-73.999%=C-; 74.000-79.999=C
60-63.999%=D-; 64.000-69.999=D
59.999% and below = F

Assignments that are late by 10 minutes or more will be subject to a 50% penalty; no assignments will be accepted after 24 hours after the due date and time. There will be no quiz make-ups. Journals are brief reflections on the readings of 1-2 pages,
double-spaced. **Quizzes** will be taken through Canvas, dates TBA. The **Midterm** will be short answer, asking you to synthesize readings and course discussions on topics we’ve covered. The **final** will be take-home and distributed the last week of classes; you will have one week to complete it (due May 10, by 5 p.m., via Canvas)

**Individual Recipe**
In addition to the above, you will also submit a recipe for the class cookbook. This can be a personal favorite, or something new. Provide cultural or personal background for the recipe and choice ingredients, hints for shopping, preparation, etc., as needed. Pics or illustrations are welcome! These will be collated into an electronic document, the **Class Cookbook**. After all the recipes have been submitted, I will combine them in an electronic document that will be provided to the class. Your cookbook will be unique to your class, so take pride in it. **DUE APRIL 27 by 5.p.m. via Canvas.**

**On final grades:** I do not round final grades to the next-highest letter grade unless there has been a calculation error. Do not ask.

**Email and general correspondence issues**
I generally respond to emails within 24 hours. Your emails should be clearly written, with a subject line that indicates which class you are in, using a university email account. Also, I use Canvas a lot to send announcements and interesting tidbits. You should get in the habit of checking Canvas frequently to make sure you don’t miss important updates. I welcome tasty bits to share with the class!

If you have a grade question, those need to be handled in office hours.

**Attendance**
I do not record attendance, but I do expect you to attend and to participate in the class. This is a topic that really lends itself to exploration and discussion, from which we can all benefit.

**Course schedule**
I reserve the right to change the schedule or readings as necessary.

**Jan 20-22**
Intro to the course
GC: Introduction

**Jan 25-29**
GC: Introduction and Cavanaugh et al., ctd.
GC: Ch. 1
(FYI the picture captions are switched around)
Feb 1-5
GC: Ch. 1, ctd.
GC: Ch. 2

Feb 8-12
Viewing: GMO OMG
GC: Ch. 3
Commensality practicum: Friday, Feb. 12

Feb 15-19
GC: Ch. 3, ctd.
GC: Ch. 4

Feb 22-26
Journal 1, due Friday, Feb. 26
GC: Ch. 4, ctd.
GC: Ch. 5

Feb. 29-Mar. 4
GC: Ch. 5
Midterm review, Friday, Mar. 4

Mar 7-11
Midterm, Monday, March 7
GC: Ch. 6
What’s with the home-cooked food controversy?
http://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/slate-family-dinner-zb0z1409zsie.aspx#axzz3F7OppKSf

Mar 14-18 Spring Break
Mar 21-25
Journal 2, due Friday Mar. 26
Viewing: *Our Oversized Kids* (childhood obesity documentary), Youtube
Commensality practicum, Fri., Mar. 26

Mar 29-Apr 2
GC: Ch. 7.

Apr 5-9
Viewing: *Spinning Plates*
Commensality practicum, Friday April 9

Apr 11-15
GC: Ch. 8

Apr 18-22
GC: Ch. 9 and Epilogue
Viewing: “Summer” from *A Year in Burgundy*


Individual recipe due date: Wed., Apr. 27

Apr 25-May 4
Further readings on food and culture

**Wed., May 4: Final exam distribution**

**May 6: Commensality practicum, last class**
Final Exam due date: Wed., May 11 at 5 p.m. via Canvas

**Special Needs**
Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to me at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. See following website for more information:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php

**Emergency Evacuation Policy**
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building.
Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.