Feeding California
Online course – Anthropology 110Y
PE-H GenEd

Instructor: Brian Walter
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Office Hours: Monday 10am – 12pm PST

Course Description
This course introduces students with no prior background in anthropology to the social practices, political processes, and cultural contexts that shape food production and consumption. By considering such diverse themes and topics as identity, heritage, choice, power, agency, body practices, belonging, access, safety, and security, students will learn key concepts, debates, theoretical approaches, and methodological orientations that are fundamental to the anthropology of food. The course will prioritize case studies of food practices in California, with comparative examples drawn from ethnographic studies of food around the world.

Course Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Understand key anthropological approaches to the study of food and human behavior
2) Develop theoretical frameworks for understanding key social issues such as identity, community formation, power and resistance, autonomy and choice, and moral economies
3) Show facility in methodological and ethical dimensions of anthropological approaches, most notably ethnographic fieldwork
4) Demonstrate knowledge about key issues in California cultural history
5) Understand the realities and debates of food insecurity
6) Demonstrate facility with technologically enhanced collaborative research, analysis, and presentation

Course Organization
The course is organized into 8 Units with individual modules for each unit. Each module will consist of a recorded video lecture that covers the materials, makes connections to reading and additional key texts, explains key concepts, and introduces questions for consideration. Reading assignments will accompany each unit and will be paired with brief quizzes to assess reading completion and comprehension. At the conclusion of the curated set of videos, students will participate in a short completion quiz to assure comprehension.

Students will participate in weekly virtual discussion groups on Wednesdays facilitated by the instructor. Discussion is mandatory and will be an opportunity to ask questions about course materials and make connections between coursework and the world.
**Course Requirements**

Assessment of your work for this course is varied and includes:

1) Ungraded monitoring of viewing of online course content

2) Comprehension quizzes at end of each session (graded on completion)
   There are 8 units in the course, each containing multiple lectures, readings, and other materials, and quizzes. Quizzes must be completed by the due dates, and will be graded for completion. Missing 2 lectures will result in the total score going down a full letter grade.

3) Participation in weekly discussion groups
   Discussion Sections will be held weekly on Wednesdays. Discussion Sections are mandatory, and you are expected to participate in class discussions and activities fully via video. Make sure you attend your assigned section and join from a private and appropriate location, where you have space to talk and complete work.

   **Section Times:**
   09:30AM-10:40AM
   03:40PM-04:50PM
   05:00PM-06:10PM

4) Completion of reading logs
   You will complete one reading log for each unit, which will be graded based on thoroughness. Reading logs will help you build note taking skills for readings.

5) Midterm Exam

6) Final Exam

**Grading Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of Online Materials and Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in weekly Discussion Groups</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of Reading Responses and Comments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Late Work and Extensions
Please see the syllabus and course Canvas site for specific details about assignment due dates. Late work will not be accepted, and extensions will not be given. It is your responsibility to complete all work, including exams, by the scheduled due dates. Your participation in sections will depend on your completion of relevant lectures and readings in advance.

Office Hours and Communication with Instructors
The Professor and TA will be available for weekly office hours by Zoom. Requests to meet outside scheduled office hours will be accommodated as possible, but with a priority on meetings during regular business hours. No meetings will occur on weekends or on holidays. Emails should be directed through Canvas and will usually be returned within 3-4 business days. All correspondences must be accompanied with a subject line that indicates ANTH 110Y and the topic to be discussed.

Workload Expectations
A 5-week summer course is equivalent to one taken over a 10-week quarter, so the material will move really fast! It is important to space your work out in order to keep up with the pace of the course. For most summer classes you spend 6 hours in class and 1 hour in section in addition to completing all the required readings and assignments (estimated 20 hours per week overall). In this class you’ll have to schedule all this time on your own. If you are worried about time management, please reach out to the instructor or teaching assistant as soon as you can.

Section Etiquette
For many of you this will be your first time participating in online discussions sections. An online classroom has the same expectations as a normal classroom. This means, make sure to join section on time, and stay for the entire class period. The TA will enforce a lateness policy, and students who leave early will not receive credit. Dress appropriately and make sure you are in a space conducive to work (stable internet, quiet, able to speak).

Academic Integrity
Academic Integrity is a serious matter, and violations of the university’s standards of academic integrity can result in serious penalties, including expulsion from the university. I do not tolerate cheating, plagiarizing, or academic dishonesty. Students who are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in other academically dishonest behavior in my classes receive an automatic F for the course and will have the case submitted to their college Provost for additional sanctions. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on Academic Integrity and to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. This information is available through your my.ucsc.edu portal, the registrar’s site, your college, or the UCSC library. If you are joining the course from another UC campus or from outside the UC community, UCSC rules and expectations will apply, so please familiarize yourself with them. The TAs and I are happy to discuss academic integrity issues if you have questions.

Inclusion and Access
Your access to the materials and activities in this course is important. If you have a disability and require accommodations to achieve equal access, please submit an accommodation letter from your campus disability resource center to your instructor by email, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact information for campus disability resources and a link to instructions for requesting accommodations are provided on the course Canvas site.
Course Schedule

Week 1: Complete Unit 1 and Unit 2 (watch lectures, complete readings, submit reading logs)
Due: Sunday June 30th at 11:59 PM

Unit 1: The Mythology of a California Food Culture
California is often presented as the garden or even the restaurant of the U.S., with California foods and food cultures circulated and desired throughout the country and the world. Yet coming up with an understanding of what constitutes “California” food culture is ambiguous and often highly contested in ways that reveal local, regional, national, and global political and economic interests. In this unit, we begin our exploration of “Feeding California” by thinking seriously about “culture,” and most notably what makes a unique culture like that of California. As the introduction to the course, this unit will use the topic of California Food Mythologies to orient students to the course, the readings, and the lectures and discussions that will follow, with particular focus on introducing students to the discipline of anthropology and the types of questions, theories, and methods that anthropologists use to study food topics. (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #1)

Readings


Unit 2: Food and Community Building
In studies of food, commensality is one of the most important issues that defines the significance of food throughout the world. This unit examines food’s commensal capacity by exploring the role that food plays in creating communities and a sense of belonging. What kinds of communities are formed, under what circumstances, and for what purposes? How does food transect, disrupt, or even break apart and reconstitute communities? We will learn about the ways in which food is a form of sociality and solidarity and how anthropologists have explored this topic. (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #2)

Readings


Week 2: Complete Unit 3 and Unit 4
Due: Sunday July 7th at 11:59 PM

Unit 3: Gardens, Farms, and Agricultural Imaginaries
California is one of the world’s most important agricultural regions, producing everything from staple fruits and vegetables to highly desired and expensive olive oils, wines, and cheeses. But what might California’s agricultural culture tell us about the everyday lives of Californians? What are the cultural values that are rooted in California agriculture? This unit focuses on agricultural systems – gardening, farming, industrial agriculture – to think critically about the value of agriculture in California. We will consider such issues as the political and economic dimensions of farming and gardening, the mythology of nature and the rural, the ways in which values are created, and the cultural imaginaries that shape these values, and questions about who is allowed to participate or excluded in these experiences. (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #3)

Readings


Unit 4: Food and Identity
How do foods and food practices reflect, express, and shape identity? Is it true that “you are what you eat”? Or is it that identity is the product of the food that a person picks, cooks, prepares, sells, or even rejects? Can identities change? Can people change identities? How does intersectionality work in the context of food-related identities? How are identities valued differently in food practice, food justice, and studies of food? What is the significance of stereotypes and claims of authenticity, ownership, and appropriation? This unit will use food as a lens for understanding anthropological concepts of identity and identity politics. We will think through such aspects of identity as race, ethnicity, gender, class, age, and religion, among others, in order to consider the extent to which identities are biological, cultural, institutional, affiliational, experiential, or performative. (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #4)

Readings


Week 3: Complete Unit 5 and Take Midterm
Due: Sunday July 14th at 11:59 PM

Unit 5: Laboring Bodies
What is the work of food? Who produces that work, and how is that work experienced, valued, and defined? This unit uses food as a lens for understanding the nature of work, labor, and production. We will explore different forms of work and consider the different types of bodies (human, animal, mechanical, ideational) that produce food. What distinguishes work from other forms of labor, including leisure or voluntarism? How are rights and responsibilities configured in different forms of work? Do different types of bodies matter more or less than others? How are bodies and forms of work theorized in the anthropology of food. *(Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #5)*

Readings


Midterm Exam
Exam opens on Thursday July 11th and closes on Sunday July 14th at 11:59 PM
Week 4: Complete Unit 6 and Unit 7
Due: Sunday July 21st at 11:59 PM

Unit 6: Food, Choice, and Desire
In what ways do food practices reflect cultural practices of choice and desire? Are food systems coercive and constraining, or can consumers make choices about the foods they like and dislike and how they use those foods? Why are issues of choice so fraught in discussions about healthy eating, food access, and even cultural tradition? This unit examines issues of choice and desire in order to understand anthropological questions with agency, power, and constraint. We will explore how issues of choice and agency are theorized, performed, contested, and redefined. Is choice an expression of freedom and autonomy; can choice be a product of coercion and oppression; is there space for resistance and subversion? (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #6)

Readings
- Sandra Cate, 2008 “‘Breaking Bread with a Spread’ in a San Francisco County Jail,” Gastronomica 8(3): 17-24.

Unit 7: Food Access, Safety, and Security
Issues of access have emerged as a critical reality for many people throughout the world, yet how access is defined, experienced, and addressed reveals much about the political and economic systems that shape food cultures. At different moments, access may be to safe food, nutritional food, traditional food, or simply to sufficient food. This unit will examine concerns with food safety, security, and access in order to illuminate how political, moral, and economic ideologies inform how people do or do not consume food and whether food is truly a basic human necessity or even a human right. How are concepts such as food (in)security, safety, and access defined by ordinary people, activists, or policy makers? What types of structures and institutions enable particular ideologies and practices of food relief to take shape? How are ideas of deservingness, responsibility, and gratitude embedded in food security initiatives? What are the power structures that shape food security projects, and are these helpful, empowering, constraining, or even coercive? How are other other perceived social problems (poverty, homelessness, violence, citizenship status, etc.) entangled within food relief? (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #7)

Readings
  ** Read Ch. 1 (pp. 29-50)
  ** Read Introduction (pp. 1-25)
Week 5: Complete Unit 8 and Take Final Exam
Due: Friday July 26th at 11:59 PM

Unit 8: Food and the Moral Economy

Food’s nutritional and social capacities are perhaps exceeded only by its ability to symbolize and channel moral issues. As such, food is a powerful symbol and conduit for critical debates about morals, ethics, and political ideologies more broadly. This unit examines the moral economies of food. How does food become caught up in debates about right and wrong, goodness, and even justice? What makes food a particularly malleable and powerful object for moral issues? What types of social justice movements have emerged around food? What utopian dreams are embedded within food moralities? (Complete Quiz, Write Reading Log #8)

Readings


Final Exam
Final Exam opens on Thursday July 25th and closes on Friday July 26th and 11:59 PM

Recommended Readings:

Unit 1


Unit 2


Unit 3


Unit 4


**Unit 5**


**Unit 6**


**Unit 7**


**Unit 8**