OUTLINE

Food is of wide-ranging interest given that eating constitutes the most important human activity which not only incorporate products of nature into our bodies, but that the preparation and consumption of food are governed by rules and rituals that form meaningful cultural systems.

This course examines what, how, with whom, where, and where we eat, and analyze these processes in relation to who we are and desire to become. Cross-cultural studies will be explored to help students better understand how food production, preparation, distribution, management and consumption shape many aspects of everyday life. These include ethnicity, gender, family, nationality, religion, and self-identity.

Other important issues to be explored include historical processes that have contributed to the global food systems of today. These encompass colonialism, the spice trade, international developments, fair trade, world health, food waste, and environmental impact.

Readings for this course will cover ethnographic studies on many cultures across the globe to give students a good comprehensive understanding of the diverse practices, and in a practical, relevant, and easy-to-relate to manner.

GRADING

- 30% Quiz
- 30% Short Assignment
- 40% Group Presentation on Field Trips

COURSE READINGS

All the readings for the module will be available in PDF format for downloading. There is no need to purchase any reading material.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule which is subject to change. A final syllabus and schedule will be provided in due course.

Week 1   From Colonialism to Cultural Globalization

- The Spice Trade and Shifts in Food Geopolitics
- Tea, Coffee, and Sugar in the Global Markets
- * Field Trip/Film * (to be confirmed)

Week 2   Food Politics and Cultures

- Food, Ethnicity and Religion
- Food, Gender and the Family
- * Field Trip/Film * (to be confirmed)

Week 4   Bio-Technology and the Global Economy

- Packaging, Fast Food, GMO and Health
- Fair Trade and International Developments
- * Field Trip/Film * (to be confirmed)

Week 5   The Creative Economy and the Environment

- Who’s Got Culinary Talent?
- * Field Trip/Film * (to be confirmed)
- Waste and the Future of Food Security