

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

SOCI 308– SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD

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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIOLOGY
SPRING 2020**

- A. **TITLE:** Sociology of Food
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SOCI 308
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the significant relationships between people, culture, and food across societies. From the family dinner table to debates surrounding environmental impacts, the production, distribution, and consumption of food reflects social institutions, agricultural systems, politics, and identity. The emergence of food and eating as a sociological subtopic provides a platform for investigating areas such as: social problems, inequality and stratification, power, media, family, labor and work, health, nutrition and safety, ecology, and globalization.

- H. **PRE-REQUISITES** ENGL101
CO-REQUISITES: None

- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
 By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u>	<u>ISLO</u>
a. Examine the historical significance of subsistence in shaping the human species, cultures, and societies.	2 [CA]
Identify core components of food production as a social institution.	2 [CA]
c. Explore the cultural significance of food in relation to social identifiers such as nationality, ethnicity, class, and gender.	4 [IK]
d. Compare and contrast social constructions of food from scientific, health, nutrition, and safety perspectives.	2 [IA]
e. Assess the role of food in media as a form of cultural expression.	2 [CA]
f. Discuss social movements focused on the production, distribution, and consumption of food.	2 [CA]

- J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:**
 Yes X No

- Research

K. TEXTS:

Beardsworth, A., & Keil, T. (2002). *Sociology on the menu: An invitation to the study of food and society*. Routledge.

Additional materials provided by instructor.

L. REFERENCES:

Adams, C. J. (2015). *The sexual politics of meat: A feminist-vegetarian critical theory*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA.

Beardsworth, A., & Keil, T. (2002). *Sociology on the menu: An invitation to the study of food and society*. Routledge.

Caplan, P. (2013). *Food, health and identity*. Routledge.

Counihan, C. M., & Kaplan, S. L. (2013). *Food and gender: Identity and power*. Routledge.

Counihan, C., & Van Esterik, P. (Eds.). (2012). *Food and culture: A reader*. Routledge.

Germov, J., & Williams, L. (Eds.). (2004). *A sociology of food and nutrition: The social appetite*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harbers, H., Mol, A., & Stollmeyer, A. (2002). Food matters. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 19(5-6), 207-226.

Maurer, Donna, and Jeffery Sobal, eds. 1995. *Eating agendas: Food and nutrition as social problems*. Social Problems and Social Issues. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

Pollan, M. (2006). *The omnivore's dilemma: A natural history of four meals*. Penguin.

Pollan, M. (2008). *In defense of food: An eater's manifesto*. Penguin.

Rosin, C., Stock, P., & Campbell, H. (Eds.). (2013). *Food systems failure: The global food crisis and the future of agriculture*. Routledge.

Slocum, R. (2011). Race in the study of food. *Progress in Human Geography*, 35(3), 303-327.

Thomas, B. J. (2010). Food deserts and the sociology of space: distance to food retailers and food insecurity in an urban American neighborhood. *International Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, 5(6), 400-409.

Wright, W., & Middendorf, G. (2010). *The fight over food: Producers, consumers, and activists challenge the global food system*. Penn State Press.

M. EQUIPMENT: Blackboard Learning Management System

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Assignments

Discussion Boards

Quizzes

Group Project

Final Project

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Overview of Food & Social Development

A. Hunter-Gatherer Societies

B. Horticultural Societies

C. Pastoral Societies

D. Agrarian Societies

- II. Food Production**
 - A. Origins of the Modern Food System
 - B. Organic Farming
 - C. Sustainability
 - D. Labor and Work
 - i. Unions
 - ii. Farmer Workers' Rights Movement

- III. Food Distribution**
 - A. Import-export Practices
 - B. Labels and Packaging
 - C. Urban Food Deserts
 - D. Class Inequality

- IV. Food Consumption**
 - A. Health
 - i. Nutrition and Dietetics
 - ii. Obesity Epidemic
 - B. Food Safety and Risk
 - C. Social Movements
 - i. Fair Trade Movement
 - ii. Veganism
 - iii. Slow Food Movement
 - iv. Farm-to-Table Movement

- V. Cultural Significance & Identity**
 - A. Family
 - B. Media
 - C. Religion
 - D. Ethnicity
 - E. Nationality
 - G. Gender

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: N/A