Course Syllabus NSC 255 – FOOD AND CULTURE

Online, 3 Credit Course

Course Instructor
Patricia Sparks, Ph.D.
Email: psparks@ag.arizona.edu
Office hours: Shantz 102, by appointment
or online through email or chat

Required Texts:

On-line readings and videos posted on D2L

Course Description:
Food is a highly diversified, yet personal experience that binds all cultures. Through this course students will experience the role of food in a variety of cultures and learn how the surrounding environment influences the tastes and flavors of a region. The course will combine assignments with readings and activities to help students begin to understand commonalities as well as diversities in cuisines and cultures. By completing assignments and activities each student will gain an appreciation of regional crops and how they contribute to both cuisine and culture.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students should have a rich and complex understanding of the interaction between culture and food, including regional crops and flavors. In particular, students will be able to:
- Contrast regional similarities and differences between foods and how this affects culture;
- Identify origin and diffusion of world food crops and their relationship to climate and culture;
- Explain the importance of food within cultural systems and social practices;
- Differentiate ingredients responsible for the characteristics of specific cultural cuisines.

Intended outcomes: Upon completion of the course students will have:
- Improved written communication skills
- Improved ability to use and conduct research
- Improved interpretative skills and approaches
- Increased ability to analyze and synthesize a broad range of material
- Improved higher order reasoning skills

Topics and Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taste – The basic science behind what influences</td>
<td>On-Line Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Influences of food around the world –Culture &amp; Religion</td>
<td>McWilliams Chapters 1-3</td>
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<td>Northern Europe</td>
<td>Chapters 4-5</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>Chapters 6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa and the Mediterranean</td>
<td>Chapters 11-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Chapters 15-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia and The Americas (South, Central and North)</td>
<td>Chapters 20-24</td>
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Grading Policy:

Grades: Final Grade Determination:
Examinations (75 pts each) 300 A > 90%
Quizzes (15 pts each) 150 B 80-89.9%
Assignments (50 pts each) 200 C 70-79.9%
Discussions (40 pts each) 80 D 60-69.9%
Paper 70 E <60%
Total 800

Assignment Format:
All completed assignments including the paper will be dropped into D2L dropboxes. Each assignment will include a distribution of points for activities and written answers. Rubrics will be included for each assignment.

Class Notes:
The syllabus, all assignments, and class slide lectures will be available on D2L. You may access D2L at http://d2l.arizona.edu with your email identifier and password. When you enroll in the class, you are automatically able to access this class on D2L. You may use the materials as necessary to help you understand and learn the content covered in the course.

Participation Policies:
Completion of all work is expected and will influence the final grade. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the Dean of Students are also honored. Timing of on line quizzes and exams will be set for a specific date, however, with advance notice of at least one week and a valid excuse, accommodations can be made for an alternate date or time.

Assignments and On-Line Information:
Some information covered in on-line videos may not be covered in the required text. Some information that is included in the readings may not be additionally covered in any on-line resources. Students are responsible for the information covered in both on-line videos as well as in assigned readings, whether posted on line or from the text and will be quizzed and tested on both. Assignment due dates will be announced on the syllabus in the Course Outline as well as being included in the specific assignment. Assignments will have a link from the content page from several topics in the days before they are due. Assignments are due on that date by 11:59 p.m. in the assigned drop box. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Discussions:
This part of the class is intended to engage students in discussions of food and culture topics that enhance the on-line lectures and assigned readings. The topics for these discussions will be provided for the class through D2L, and if additional articles are required they will be linked on line. Citations for these discussions may come from credible articles in the popular press or from scientific articles.

Discussions will be set up on line and announced in course schedule with due dates attached to the course syllabus. Specific questions will be posed to which students will be required to respond. Students will also be asked to respond to at least one posting from their classmates.

Discussions boards will be open for five days and will require two posts – the first will require the student to state an opinion on the topic while the second requires the student to comment on another student’s post. All discussion comments can earn a possible 40 points.

Examinations:
Four 60 minute exams are scheduled. Each exam will cover assigned readings, videos and lectures. Make-up Exams will not be given. Exams will be open for students for 24 hours (on the scheduled date from 12:01am to 12:01pm; Arizona time). If a student is unable to take the exam during that 24-hour period, with at least one week’s advance notice, the exam can be scheduled for another prearranged time.
Quizzes:
There will be 10 quizzes plus a syllabus quiz. You have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. Each quiz will be worth 15 points and will assess comprehension of material covered in each unit as well as assigned readings and videos. They should help students prepare for the exams. Students will be able to drop the lowest quiz grade.

Assignments and Paper:
There will be 4 Assignments and a Paper. These assignments will be dropped in the appropriately labeled drop box by 11:59 p.m. Arizona time on the due date. These will account for about 30 percent of the grade. Their successful completion can have a significant impact on a grade. Students will be allowed to revise the first two written assignments from instructor feedback for resubmission to improve the grade if necessary. The highest grade a resubmitted assignment can receive is a 37.

Posting of Grades:
Grades will be posted on D2L so you may access them at any time. If unable to access a grade for an assignment or quiz, please contact the instructor or D2L.

Incompletes:
No incomplete grades will be given to students who are unsatisfied with their grade. Students need to contact the instructor to assess the potential for an incomplete, as a majority of the classwork must be completed. According to University of Arizona policy, all incomplete grades that are not satisfied within one calendar year automatically become an E.

Special Needs and Accommodations Statement:
Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center, 1224 East Lowell Street, Tucson, AZ 85721, (520) 621-3268, FAX (520) 621-9423, email: uadrc@email.arizona.edu, http://drc.arizona.edu/. You must register and request that the Center or DRC send me official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

Student Code of Academic Integrity:
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai2.html.

Confidentiality of Student Records:
http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm

Subject to Change Statement:
Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.