

Advanced Seminar in American Studies: Art and Politics of Food

Professor Allison Carruth | Fall 2021

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

T 1:30 pm to 4:20 pm
Morrison Hall 224

OFFICE HOURS

T 11:00-12:00 and W 3:00-4:30,
Patio behind Morrison Hall weather permitting
sign up at calendly.com/allison_carruth

COURSE OVERVIEW

Food is pivotal to American histories of colonialism and capitalism, Indigenous lands and immigrant communities, industrialization and environmentalism. This seminar investigates these histories by exploring the question of how food as a site for cultural and artistic expression has also participated in social movements for racial, gender, and environmental justice. Through this lens, we will consider filmmakers and writers who have told the story of farmworker organizing to confront American agribusiness in the United States and Mexico; we will compare the work of chefs who are advocating for local, foraged, and native foods and we will situate these efforts in the contexts of Indigenous food sovereignty and ethnic foodways; and we will investigate a diverse set of artistic and technological visions of sustainable food futures. We'll investigate these topics through a range of primary materials: documentary film, fiction, journalism, activist ephemera, culinary writing, and visual and performance art. Our secondary materials will connect methods and ideas from American studies, critical food studies, and the environmental humanities.

OUR RETURN TO CAMPUS

As we return to in-person classes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, may we be especially thoughtful of one another. If at any point this semester you experience cold or flu symptoms or are otherwise ill, please stay home and let me know if you wish to participate in class remotely. There will be no penalties for illness-related absences, and we will work together to keep you connected and up to speed with the seminar. Refer to the Princeton COVID-19 website for health and wellbeing resources and for testing and masking policies: <https://covid.princeton.edu/>.

COURSE TEXTS

Please obtain physical copies of the required texts, all of which are available at Labyrinth books.

- Cherríe Moraga, *Heroes and Saints* (play)
- Ruth L. Ozeki, *All Over Creation* (novel)
- Sean Sherman, *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen* (cookbook)
- Blaine Wetzel, *Lummi: Island Cooking* (cookbook)

REQUIREMENTS

ASSIGNMENT	% OF GRADE
<p><u>Seminar participation</u> This grade will be based on the seminar community principles below.</p>	10%
<p><u>Midterm essay 4-5 pages due before fall recess</u> Write a personal narrative of a memory or recent experience that shapes how you understand the politics of food in contemporary American culture. In your narrative, describe the memory/experience in substantive ways. In addition, articulate specific principles of your food politics it inspires and illuminates.</p>	20%
<p><u>Collaborative project and presentation due before Thanksgiving recess</u> In your assigned team, develop a proposal for a public artistic exhibit or event that engages with one of our central themes. Your proposal should be specific about the location or site imagined for the exhibit/event, the issue(s) it addresses, some of the artists and community groups who would be involved, how it would be designed, and how audiences / participants would experience it.</p> <p>The final project should include a 6-8-page written vision statement and proposal for the exhibit/event that includes illustrative graphics or other media (e.g., sound files, video clips, etc.). You can submit these materials either as a PDF or a website.</p> <p>Each team will also deliver a 15-minute presentation about their project on 11/16.</p>	30%
<p><u>Research-based essay 15-20 pages final essay due by Dean's date</u> Investigate a topic of your own design related to one or more of the assigned materials on the syllabus. Develop an analytical, research-based argument about your topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic prospectus 2-3 pages, 10 points by 11/1 • Draft to be read by team members and peer review process 10 points by 11/22 • Final essay with complete bibliography 15-20 pages, 80 points by Dean's date <p><i>Detailed guidelines for this assignment will be provided early in the semester.</i></p>	40%

Note: This seminar satisfies either the Culture and Difference (CD) or Literature and the Arts (LA) general education requirements.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

We may make modifications to this schedule as we go, with your input. Other than the required books, all materials can be found as PDFs, videos, or web links on our course Canvas site.

WEEK	ASSIGNED MATERIALS & DUE DATES
Week 1 T 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Course introduction ◇ In-class viewing: <i>Chef's Table</i>, Christina Martinez and South Philly Barbacoa (2015) ◇ In-class reading: Gabrielle Hamilton, "The Pasta Cure for the Hungry and Stressed-Out" (2018) ◇ In-class reading: Kyla Tompkins, "Consider the Recipe" (2013)
Week 2 T 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ruth L. Ozeki, <i>All Over Creation</i> (2003), parts I-IV ◇ Kitchen Sisters podcast, Food and Japanese internment episode (2007) ◇ Eleanor Ty, "An Interview with Ruth Ozeki" (2013) ◇ Molly Wallace, "Discomfort Food" (2011)
Week 3 T 9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ruth L. Ozeki, <i>All Over Creation</i> (2003), parts V-VI + epilogue ◇ Center for Genomic Gastronomy, <i>Food Phreaking</i>, Seeds issue (2019) ◇ Wendell Berry, "The Pleasures of Eating" (2009) ◇ Julie Guthman, "Fast Food/Organic Food" (2003)
Week 4 T 9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Zina Saro-Wiwa, Illicit Gin Society and Bush Nurse's Tea Party (2019-present) ◇ Judy Chicago, <i>The Dinner Party</i> (1979) ◇ Sally Deskins, "Judy Chicago's 'The Dinner Party': The Curatorial Context" (2020) ◇ Grant Kester, "Conversation Pieces... Socially-Engaged Art" (2005)
Week 5 T 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ang Lee, <i>Eat Drink Man Woman</i> (1994) ◇ María Ripoll, <i>Tortilla Soup</i> (2001) ◇ Anne Anlin Cheng, "Sushi, Otters, Mermaids: Race at the Intersection of Food and Animal" (2014)
Week 6 T 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Cherríe Moraga, <i>Heroes and Saints</i> (1992) ◇ Excerpts from <i>El Malcriado</i> magazine, The Farm Worker Press (1964-1970) ◇ David DeRose, "Cherríe Moraga: Mapping Aztlan" (1996) ◇ Paloma Martínez-Cruz, "Farmworker-to-Table Mexican..." (2016)
FALL RECESS: Saturday 10/16 through Sunday 10/24	

Week 7 T 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Teresa Camou, <i>Sunú: Mexican Maize Farmers</i> (2015) ◇ Sabiha Khan, "Mediating Food Sovereign Voices in Documentary Media" (2020) ◇ Lindsay Naylor, "A Place for GMOs in Food Sovereignty?" (2017)
M 11/1: prospectus for research essay	
Week 8 T 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Sean Sherman, <i>The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen</i> (2017) ◇ Sean Sherman, Dana Thompson and collaborators, <i>The Sioux Chef</i> (ongoing) ◇ Kyle Powys Whyte, "Food Sovereignty, Justice, and Indigenous Peoples" (2018) ◇ <i>Workshop for collaborative project</i>
Week 9 T 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Blaine Wetzel, <i>Lummi: Island Cooking</i> (2020) ◇ Anna Tsing, "Unruly Edges: Mushrooms as Companion Species" (2012) ◇ Julia Moskin, "The Island is Idyllic. As a Workplace, It's Toxic" (2021)
Week 10 T 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Team presentations about collaborative project ◇ <i>No new assigned materials; synthesis discussion and research essay workshop</i>
M 11/22: draft of research essay submitted to team members	
Week 11 T 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Don Bugito, <i>Prehispanic Snackeria</i> (2010-present) ◇ Duron Chavis and Quilian Riano, <i>Resiliency Garden</i> (2020-present) ◇ "A Resiliency Garden Blooms" (2020) ◇ Marina Zurkow and Hank & Bean, <i>Making the Best of It</i> (2018-present) ◇ Monica White, "D-Town: African-American Farmers" (2010)
<i>THANKSGIVING RECESS: Tuesday 11/23 end of classes through Sunday 11/28</i>	
Week 12 T 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Read team member's essay drafts in advance; prepare notes for peer review ◇ Course conclusion and celebration
<i>READING PERIOD: Tuesday 12/7 through Tuesday 12/14</i>	
T 12/14 (Dean's Date): final research essay submitted to Professor Carruth	

OUR SEMINAR COMMUNITY

A seminar offers the opportunity for ongoing conversation and shared inquiry. My hope is that we bring an ethos of community, collaboration, and intellectual generosity to our work together. I encourage you to pose ideas or offer constructive criticism at any point toward refining the class. During our weekly meetings, I ask that we tune out distractions and tune into the assigned material, that we test out ideas with rigor and creativity, and that we listen actively to one another. Please silence phones and take notes by paper. If you have an academic accommodation that requires the use of an electronic device, please let me know.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity stands in solidarity with all those who experience injustice based on race, gender, or any aspect of identity, and works on efforts to bring about structural change at Princeton to make the University more inclusive and accessible. The University's policy on discrimination and harassment can be found on the Inclusive Princeton website, along with a wide range of resources and community connections. <https://inclusive.princeton.edu/addressing-concerns/policies/policy-discrimination-and-or-harassment>

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have any approved accommodations, please let me know during an office hours appointment or via email. Requests for academic accommodations must be made with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible for newly approved students, and again at least two weeks in advance of any needed accommodations. Contact ODS via email at ods@princeton.edu or via phone at 609-258-8840. <https://ods.princeton.edu/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As *Academic Integrity at Princeton* describes, intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of student work. All students in this course are expected to abide by the Princeton Honor Code and to complete their collaborative and individual work in accordance with University academic integrity principles and policies. For details and resources visit the Princeton Honor System website: <https://ua.princeton.edu/contents/undergraduate-honor-system>.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

- Counseling & Psychological Services: <https://uhs.princeton.edu/counseling-psychological-services>
- McGraw Center Digital Learning Lab: <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/>
- Office of Undergraduate Research: <http://undergraduateresearch.princeton.edu>
- Reference Librarians: <http://library.princeton.edu/hours/information>
- Writing Center: <http://writing.princeton.edu/center>