

Provisional Syllabus

Advanced Seminar in American Studies: Art and Politics of Food

Professor Allison Carruth | Fall 2021



MEETING TIME

T 1:30 pm to 4:20 pm

COURSE OVERVIEW

Food is central to histories of migration and globalization, work and leisure, inequality and reparative justice, industrialization and environmental health. This seminar investigates how current political movements that are responsive to these histories intersect with food as a site for creative expression and artistic experimentation. Through this lens, we will explore diverse visions of food systems and food cultures in the US.

Seminar topics include agribusiness and biotechnology, food and farm labor, environmental and climate justice, public health, ethnic cuisine, restaurant culture and culinary innovation. We'll investigate these topics via a range of primary materials: documentary film, advertising, journalism, activist ephemera, culinary writing and visual and performance art. Our secondary materials will connect methods and ideas from American studies and the environmental humanities to the field of critical food studies.

COURSE TEXTS

- Digital course reader on class website with PDFs / links to assigned materials
- 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 criteria outlined in the seminar community principles below. To receive full credit, turn off distractions, attend to the material and your peers, contribute ideas and questions, listen actively and be prepared to discuss materials. In addition, attend every week (barring illness or vital extracurricular / athletic commitments).</p>	10%
<p><u>Midterm essay in lieu of exam 5-7 pages due before fall recess</u> Attend a local exhibit, reading, performance, academic lecture, symposium or conference related to one of our course topics and then write a review essay about it for an imagined audience of a major magazine or media outlet.</p>	20%
<p><u>Design project: collaborative media project due before Thanksgiving recess</u> In assigned team, design, research and produce a multimedia story or podcast episode about an artist, activist organization or social movement related to one of our course topics. In addition, prepare and deliver a 10-12-minute presentation about the process of collaboration and its challenges, rewards and final outcomes.</p>	30%
<p><u>Final essay in lieu of exam 15-20 pages due on Dean's date</u> <i>deadlines for preparatory assignments will be decided in the first week of the class</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic prospectus and bibliography (3-4 pages, 20 points) • Participation in peer review process (5 points) • Presentation to seminar (10-12 minutes, 15 points) • Final essay with complete bibliography (15-20 pages, 60 points) 	40%

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNED MATERIALS
Week 1 T 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>Chef's Table</i> episodes about Mashama Bailey, Dominique Cren and Cristina Martínez ◇ Articles by Wendell Berry, Julie Guthman and Monica White
Week 2 T 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>Sunú: Mexican Maize Farmers</i> (2015) ◇ Cherríe Moraga, <i>Heroes and Saints</i> (1992) ◇ Secondary materials (TBD)
Week 3 T 9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ruth L. Ozeki, <i>All Over Creation</i> (2003), parts I-IV ◇ Kitchen Sisters, "Food and Japanese Internment" (2007) ◇ Secondary materials (TBD)
Week 4 T 9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ruth L. Ozeki, <i>All Over Creation</i> (2003), parts V-VI + epilogue ◇ <i>Food Phreaking</i> zine ◇ Molly Wallace, "Discomfort Food" (2011)
Week 5 T 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Workshop for collaborative project
Week 6 T 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Sherman, <i>The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen</i> (2017) ◇ Secondary materials (TBD)
FALL RECESS: Friday 10/15 through Sunday 10/24	
Week 7 T 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Wetzel, <i>Lummi: Island Cooking</i> (2020) ◇ Secondary materials (TBD)
Week 8 T 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jonathan Safran Foer, "Against Meat" (2009) ◇ Meat Paper, "Behind the Meat Dress" (2011) ◇ Secondary materials (TBD)
Week 9 T 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>City of Gold</i> (2018) ◇ Allen Ginsberg, "A Supermarket in California" (1956) ◇ Chang-rae Lee, "Magical Dinners" (2010) ◇ Harryette Mullen, <i>S*PeRM**K*T</i> poems (1992)
Week 10 T 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Food and climate futures artist-led projects (TBD) ◇ Dan Koepfel, "Fruit of the Future" (2010) ◇ Warren Belasco, excerpts from <i>Meals to Come</i> (2006)
Week 11 T 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>The Martian</i> (2015) ◇ Allie E.S. Wist, <i>Flooded</i> climate and food futures exhibition ◇ Aeroponic, vertical farm and in vitro meat designs
THANKSGIVING RECESS: Tuesday 11/23 end of classes through Sunday 11/28	
Week 12 T 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Course conclusions and presentations
READING PERIOD: Tuesday 12/7 through Tuesday 12/14	
DEAN'S DATE: Tuesday 12/14	

SEMINAR COMMUNITY AND COURSE ETIQUETTE

A seminar offers the opportunity for an ongoing conversation and shared inquiry. My hope is that we bring an ethos of community, collaboration, and intellectual generosity to our work. 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 material, test out ideas with rigor and creativity, and listen to one another. *In this spirit, our seminar will be an electronic device-free zone.* 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. Finally, especially given our theme, take time this semester to be outside, observe the environment, and connect with friends as well as other creatures.

Summary of research on electronic devices and learning/memory: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> ; <https://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>; <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956797617694868>

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 written work in accordance with University rules. For details and resources visit the Princeton Honor System website: <https://ua.princeton.edu/contents/undergraduate-honor-system>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have any approved accommodations, please let me know early in the semester and also again before major course deadlines. Princeton students are required to register with the Office of Disability Services (ods@princeton.edu; 258-8840) for disability and academic accommodations.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Princeton makes available to students a range of psychological and counseling resources. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at <https://uhs.princeton.edu/counseling-psychological-services> . Support is available 24-hours-a-day through <https://uhs.princeton.edu/counseling-psychological-services/urgent-mental-health-concerns> or by calling the Department of Public Safety at 609-258-3333.

STUDENT RESOURCES

- Counseling & Psychological Services: <https://uhs.princeton.edu/counseling-psychological-services>
- McGraw Center Digital Learning Lab: <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/>
- Office of Disability Services: <https://ods.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>