

WGSS 120S Women Food and Culture

Summer 2018 MWF 1-3:15

Professor Maria Trumpler

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Office: 135 Prospect St

Office hours before and after class meetings and by appt.

This course will offer an interdisciplinary cross-cultural exploration of food production, preparation and consumption. Our focus will be on women's roles in these activities and the ways that gender is expressed and constituted through them.

Final grade will be based on four 5-page paper assignments due in class June 11, June 18, June 25 and 29. Each of these will count 20% of the final grade with the remaining 20% based on participation in class discussions.

M May 28 Lecture: Why study food?

Discussion: Feminism and Food

W May 30 Lecture: Pre-history of Food

Visit to Peabody Museum of Natural History

Reading: Marjorie Shostak, Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung woman, Ch 3,11,12 (on Canvas files)

F June 1 Historical Re-creation: Babylonian flatbread baking

Guest lecturer: Prof. Julia Giblin on bio-archeology of bones to research pre-historic diets

Class held at Yale Farm, on Edwards St between Whitney and Prospect.

Homework assignment to visit Yale University Art Gallery or Wooster Square Farmer's market due Monday, June 4 in class.

M June 4 Lecture: Sugar: The Politics of a Commodity

Reading Discussion: Michael Pollan, "Apples" in Botany of Desire (on Canvas)

W June 6 Lecture: Why have women stopped baking bread at home and why does it matter?

Reading: Engelhardt A Mess of Greens: Southern Gender and Southern Food, chapter 2 (on Canvas)

Baking: cornbread and biscuits

F June 8 Lecture: Milk, cheese, class, gender, ethnicity

Reading Discussion: Melanie DuPuis Nature's Perfect Food, Ch. 5, Perfect Food, Perfect Bodies

Heather Paxson, "Post-Pasteurian Cultures" Cult. Anthr. 23 (2008): 15-47

Cheese tasting and butter making

Assignment 1 Due Monday, June 11 in class.

M June 11 Lecture: Cookbooks as a female literary genre

Reading: Excerpts from Toni Tipton-Martin, The Jemima Code: Two Centuries of African American Cookbooks, as well as cookbooks by Abby Fisher (1881) Freda DeKnight (1941) and Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor (1970) (on Canvas)

In class examination of 19th and 20th c. cookbooks

W June 13 Lecture: Progressivism and Domestic Science

Reading: Catherine Beecher, "The American Home," The Atlantic 1860
Visit to YUAG Colonial Kitchen

F June 15 Guest lecture: Claire Criscuolo, Owner Claire's Corner Copia and cookbook author

Cooking class with Claire

Assignment 2 Due Monday June 18, in class

M June 18 Lecture: Constituting Gender: Sociology of Household Work

Reading Discussion : Marjorie DeVault Feeding the Family, Ch 4, "Feeding as Women's Work" and Arlie Hochschild The Second Shift , Ch 8, "A Scarcity of Gratitude"

Article on family conversation at dinner

W June 20 Lecture: Race, Gender and Food Service work

Saru Jayaraman Behind the Kitchen Door (Yale internet resource)

Behind the scenes visit to dining hall

F June 22 Visit print collection at Art Gallery to look at 20th c. US

Photographs of farms and kitchens

Meet in Ground Floor lounge of Art Gallery, Chapel and York St.

Assignment 3 Due Monday, June 25 in class

M June 25 History of Dieting in America

Reading: Roxane Gay Hunger (excerpts on Canvas)

W June 27 Cultural History of Women Not Eating

Reading: Carolyn Knapp Appetites, (excerpts on Canvas)

F June 29 Sharing of Food Portraits

Concluding Discussion

Assignment 4 due Friday June 29, in class.