



ANTH2003

Food Across Cultures

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and lecturer

Eve Vincent

eve.vincent@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

25WW, B220

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(ANTH150 or ANTH1050) or (40cp at 1000 level or above)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

We all eat. But what, when, how, how much and with whom we eat is bound up with questions of cultural difference, gender and power. The study of food, eating and hunger has long held a particular fascination for anthropologists--from subsistence strategies to nutritional intake, from food taboos to the social rules that structure how people eat together. This unit introduces the idea that the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political, and cultural meanings. We will focus on some classic anthropological work on eating as a social practice. Then we move to the concerns of contemporary anthropology, examining issues such as the global industrial food system, and the link between migration, ethnic identity and food. Throughout this unit we are concerned with everyday eating practices, exploring the extraordinary variety of food likes and dislikes in a range of ethnographic contexts.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Analyse how the everyday activities of food classification, cooking and eating are

packed with cultural meanings.

ULO2: Identify connections between food, globalisation, consumption practices and class, identity and migration.

ULO3: Analyse the relationship between food, gender and power.

ULO4: Apply anthropological theory to the study of food-related practices in contemporary Australia.

ULO5: Demonstrate a command of anthropological knowledge and theories as applied to the study of food and culture.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Mid session test	30%	No	Sunday April 13
Observational task	40%	No	Sunday May 25
Portfolio	30%	No	Sunday June 8

Mid session test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 22 hours

Due: **Sunday April 13**

Weighting: **30%**

Multiple choice and short answer test assessing comprehension of unit content

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse how the everyday activities of food classification, cooking and eating are packed with cultural meanings.
- Identify connections between food, globalisation, consumption practices and class, identity and migration.

Observational task

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Sunday May 25**

Weighting: **40%**

A written task comprising a detailed, autoethnographic account of the cooking and/or eating of a meal.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply anthropological theory to the study of food-related practices in contemporary Australia.

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 32 hours

Due: **Sunday June 8**

Weighting: **30%**

Collation of written reflective responses based on topics from the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse how the everyday activities of food classification, cooking and eating are packed with cultural meanings.
- Identify connections between food, globalisation, consumption practices and class, identity and migration.
- Analyse the relationship between food, gender and power.
- Demonstrate a command of anthropological knowledge and theories as applied to the study of food and culture.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

All unit readings are available via Leganto and iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Eating together
Week 2	Taste and taboo
Week 3	Cannibals?
Week 4	Gender
Week 5	Cooking and kitchens
Week 6	Entanglements
Week 7	Fast food
Week 8	Slow food
Week 9	Class and taste
Week 10	Hunger
Week 11	The climate crisis and the future of food
Week 12	Eating this continent
Week 13	Conclusions

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)

- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)