ANTH203
Food Across Cultures
S1 Day 2015
Dept of Anthropology

Contents

General Information ........................................... 2
Learning Outcomes ........................................... 3
Assessment Tasks ............................................ 4
Delivery and Resources ..................................... 6
Unit Schedule .................................................. 7
Policies and Procedures ..................................... 13
Graduate Capabilities ....................................... 14

Disclaimer
Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.
# General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

**Unit Convenor**
Eve Vincent  
[eve.vincent@mq.edu.au](mailto:eve.vincent@mq.edu.au)
Contact via eve.vincent@mq.edu.au  
W6A, 611  
Tuesday 10am-11am or by appointment

**Tutor**
Lindy McDougall  
[lindy.mcdougall@mq.edu.au](mailto:lindy.mcdougall@mq.edu.au)
Contact via lindy.mcdougall@mq.edu.au

Tutor
Angeles Montalvo  
[angeles.montalvo@students.mq.edu.au](mailto:angeles.montalvo@students.mq.edu.au)
Contact via angeles.montalvo@students.mq.edu.au

Payel Ray  
[payel.ray@mq.edu.au](mailto:payel.ray@mq.edu.au)

**Credit points**
3

**Prerequisites**
ANTH150 or 12cp or admission to GDipArts

**Corequisites**

**Co-badge 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 and eating 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 students to the idea that the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings. We will focus first on some classic anthropological work on eating as a social practice. Then we move to the concerns of contemporary anthropology, examining industrialised globalised food production, consumption practices and identity. Throughout this course we are concerned with everyday eating practices, exploring the extraordinary variety of food likes and dislikes in a range of ethnographic contexts. Not only will we talk about food, we will also come together to share food.

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:

- Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
- Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
- Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
- Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called ‘authentic’ tastes;
- Come together to share food in order to gain an embodied knowledge of and insight into food preparation and consumption;
- Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
- Enhance their communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on articulating knowledge and information in a clear and concise fashion;
- Develop problem-solving skills through this unit’s focus on applying and adapting anthropological knowledge to real world problems;
- Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis of Readings</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday March 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Experience Research</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Weeks 10 and 11, in-class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog Analysis</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Friday June 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tutorial Participation

Due: Weekly
Weighting: 10%

Each week, you should prepare for the tutorial discussion by completing the required readings. You should arrive at class willing to engage in respectful discussion of the authors’ key points and arguments. It is especially useful to bring with you any doubts or confusion about the readings - the tutorial is your time to clarify the readings as well as the lecture content. You are expected both to make informed contributions to class discussions, and to listen to others’ contributions. Please notify your tutor if you are going to be absent from a tutorial. You are expected to attend at least 80 per cent of tutorials over the course of the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
- Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
- Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called ‘authentic’ tastes;
- Come together to share food in order to gain an embodied knowledge of and insight into food preparation and consumption;
- Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
- Enhance their communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on articulating knowledge and information in a clear and concise fashion;
- Develop problem-solving skills through this unit’s focus on applying and adapting anthropological knowledge to real world problems;
Critical Analysis of Readings

Due: **Friday March 20**  
Weighting: **20%**

Your are required to select two readings from the first three weeks of this course. You may select from either the required or extended readings, but you should **not** select two readings from the same week. Provide a 500 word summary of each of the readings. We are looking for a critical engagement with the readings - after outlining the content of the reading, you are required to identify the central argument that the author is making.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.

Eating Experience Research

Due: **Weeks 10 and 11, in-class**  
Weighting: **50%**

This social research project will be undertaken as a group assignment (3-4 students). Groups will be organised in your Week 5 tutorial. Your group will choose a particular eating situation, whether it is a meal on campus, dinner at home with family, a holiday meal, eating at the local cafeteria, or dining in a cafe or restaurant. You will then produce a **description** and an **analysis** of this particular eating situation. Class discussions and lectures will direct your attention to considering issues such as: the physical layout of the chosen space; the social dynamics of the place: who sits where, who serves whom, and what and how they eat; the role of gender and/or class in this eating experience.

The task is to closely observe an eating experience, and to provide some analysis of your observations based on the course material. Creativity in style and media of presentation is encouraged for the in-class presentations. On the date of your presentation, each student will also submit a written report of not more than 2,000 words on their project (detailed instructions on the report will be provided). The in-class presentation will be marked out of 20. Each group will have up to 10 minutes for their presentation. Every member of the group will receive the same mark as long as they have equally participated in the process of conducting the research and presenting your findings. The written report will be marked out of 30: this is an individual assignment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
- Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
Enhance their communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on articulating knowledge and information in a clear and concise fashion;
Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.

Blog Analysis
Due: Friday June 12
Weighting: 20%

You are required to analyse a food-related blog. We will spend time in tutorials in Week 12 discussing the range of blogs suitable for analysis. These blogs might deal, for example, with cooking, recipes, agriculture, bodies, or contemporary political movements related to food. You should spend some time describing the content of the blog before turning to an anthropological analysis of its content, drawing on the themes and theories of this course. Your written assignment should include at least three references to either course material, or relevant literature.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
• Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called 'authentic' tastes;
• Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
• Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.

Delivery and Resources
The required readings for this unit, as well as the further readings, are all available through your iLearn site. The following texts have been placed on library reserve:


This course entails both lectures and tutorials. It is expected that you attend both. Films shown during lectures are an important component of this unit. All lectures (not films) will be recorded on echo360 and made available on the iLearn site to assist with review of course material. **This should not be considered a substitute for lecture attendance.**

Lecture slides will also be available on the iLearn site. Slides will be made available before the Wednesday lecture.

**Unit Schedule**

**Week 1. Eating Together: Introduction to the Anthropology of Food**

Wednesday February 25

**Background readings:**


**There are no tutorials this week**, but you should read the course outline thoroughly and familiarise yourself with the course assignments. Select one of the background readings for this week to read over, and then make a start on the readings for next week. If you have any questions please bring them to next week’s tutorial.

**Week 2. Taste and Taboo**

Wednesday March 4

**Required readings:**

Further reading:


**The first assessment task will be discussed in Week 2 tutorials.**

**

**Week 3. The Man-Eating Myth and Mortuary Cannibalism in the Amazon**

Wednesday March 11

**Required readings:**


Film: *Kuru: The science and the sorcery* (2009) Rob Bygott

**Further reading:**


**

**Week 4. Hunting, Gathering and Food Collecting in Pre-colonial, Colonial and Postcolonial Australia**

Wednesday March 18

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/48473/unit_guide/print
Unit guide ANTH203 Food Across Cultures


**

Week 5. The Sweet Stuff: The History and Meaning of Sugar

Wednesday March 25

Required Reading


Further reading:


Students will form groups for the Eating Experience Research assessment task in Week 5 tutorials.

Week 6. The Industrialised Food System

Wednesday April 1

Required reading:


Film: Food Inc. (2008) Robert Kenner

Further reading:


**

April 6-17: mid-semester recess, no lectures or tutorials

**

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/48473/unit_guide/print
**Week 7. Coffee, Class and Globalisation**

Wednesday March 22

**Required reading:**


**Extended reading:**


**

**Week 8. Food and Gender**

Wednesday April 29

**Required reading:**


**Further reading:**


**

**Week 9. 'Dancing in the Monsoon.' Scarcity, Abundance and Belonging: Eating Lime Pickle in a Rajasthani Household**

Wednesday May 9

Guest lecturer: Dr Kim Paul
Required reading


Further reading:


**

**Week 10. The Global Food Regime and Issues of Food Security, Food Sovereignty and Farmers’ Rights: The Case of Nepal**

Wednesday May 13

Guest Lecturer: Sascha Fuller

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Presentations in class this week!**

**

**Week 11. Eating the Other? Food and Multiculturalism**

Wednesday May 20

Required reading:

Further reading:


Presentations in class this week!

Week 12. Bodies at the Limit: From Anorexia to the Fat Acceptance Movement

Wednesday May 27

Required reading:


Further reading:

- Carol Walker Bynum, Holy Feast and Holy Fast: The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987. (This book has been placed on reserve.)

The final assessment task will be discussed in Week 12 tutorials.

**

Week 13: The Communal Feast: Potluck and Commensality in W6A, 107

There are no tutorials or lectures this week. Instead we will meet in W6A, 107 at 12pm: bring food to share, and a story about that food.
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html
Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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 ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

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

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.
Student Enquiries
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
- Come together to share food in order to gain an embodied knowledge of and insight into food preparation and consumption;
- Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Eating Experience Research

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
- Develop problem-solving skills through this unit’s focus on applying and adapting
Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
• Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
• Come together to share food in order to gain an embodied knowledge of and insight into food preparation and consumption;
• Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
• Develop problem-solving skills through this unit’s focus on applying and adapting anthropological knowledge to real world problems;

Assessment task
• Blog Analysis

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
• Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
• Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
• Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called ‘authentic’ tastes;
• Come together to share food in order to gain an embodied knowledge of and insight into food preparation and consumption;

Assessment tasks

• Critical Analysis of Readings
• Eating Experience Research

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understand how the everyday activities of cooking and eating are packed with economic, medical, political and cultural meanings;
• Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
• Research the food-related practices of everyday life in a range of ethnographic contexts;
• Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;
• Develop problem-solving skills through this unit’s focus on applying and adapting anthropological knowledge to real world problems;

Assessment tasks

• Critical Analysis of Readings
• Eating Experience Research
• Blog Analysis
Problem Solving and Research Capability
Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**
- Develop problem-solving skills through this unit's focus on applying and adapting anthropological knowledge to real world problems;

**Assessment tasks**
- Critical Analysis of Readings
- Eating Experience Research

Effective Communication
We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- Enhance their communication and interpersonal skills through oral discussion and written work that focuses on articulating knowledge and information in a clear and concise fashion;
- Cement critical analysis and creative thinking skills through research assignments and papers.

**Assessment tasks**
- Tutorial Participation
- Eating Experience Research

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens
As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should
have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
- Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called ‘authentic’ tastes;
- Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;

**Assessment task**

- Blog Analysis

**Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible**

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Gain insight into the ways that food is linked up with many of the concerns of contemporary social anthropology, including globalisation, consumption practices, identity, and practices of everyday life;
- Consider the impact of globalisation and migration on food ways, resistance to corporate multinational food chains and celebrations of so-called ‘authentic’ tastes;
- Apply and adapt anthropological knowledge to real world issues;

**Assessment task**

- Blog Analysis