



KIIS Prague Program, Summer 2024

HON 300 / ANTH 366 Topics: Honors Food, Culture & Society¹

Instructor: Prof. M. Ruth Dike

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course explores how culture shapes food practices and how food practices, in turn, shape culture. The study of food reveals much about social relations (family, gender, identity, and work) as well as national and international health, worker's rights, economic and environmental policy. Students will consider the forces that have shaped the food system and our daily food choices, or lack thereof. The course traces the complexity of food-related behaviors among peoples in the U.S. and around the world.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

¹ This is the equivalent to ANTH 388 Foodways at Western Kentucky University, ANTH 352 Food and the Body Politic at the University of Louisville, and ANT 245 Food, Culture and Society at the University of Kentucky.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes: Upon completing the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain what it means to take an anthropological approach to the study of food and give an example of anthropological research regarding food.
2. Identify how class, race/ethnicity, and gender influence access to and experiences of food.
3. Imagine, propose, formulate, and execute original research on the anthropology of food.
4. Demonstrate an increased knowledge of the field of anthropology (including basic terms of anthropological analysis) and how anthropologists approach the study of food.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Week 1: Anthropology, Food Anthropology Methods & Ethics

Week 2: Intersectionality: Social Class, Gender, & Race in relation to Food

Week 3: Whose your Farmer? Farm Workers, Food & the Body, Food & Globalization

Week 4: Food Solutions (Charity, Policy, Farmers Markets, Community Gardens, Reparations) & Critiques

5. Required Readings and Materials: There are no required texts for you to buy for this course. However, there are a number of required films that can either be watched via Netflix, Vimeo, Amazon, or YouTube. The options are listed in the course schedule. You may need to pay a small charge (typically \$2.99-\$3.99) to rent the films if you do not have access to your own or a friend's Netflix account. All other course readings are posted on Blackboard.

6. Graded Assignments

Course Engagement (10%)

Students will be responsible for actively participating in the course by showing up to class in person, having read required course materials PRIOR to class meeting, and actively engaging in course content. To receive full credit for course engagement, you must be fully present, and you must not distract other students.

Beginning Reflection (5%)

The beginning reflection is going to provide the context for you and me to evaluate your work throughout the semester. Take a moment and think before you write the reflection. This exercise will set your goals for the semester about what you want to get out of this class. This should be 300-500 words and answer all of the questions asked.

Participant Observation Assignments (10%)

Students will complete two participant observation assignments in Prague. The first will be in a grocery store or market (30 minutes) and the second will be in a restaurant or café (1 hour). Students will note the types of products they see and the types of people that come into the establishment, the layout of the place and the culture. What differences do they note between this place and back home? Students will turn in their detailed notes from participant observation (at least 2 pages handwritten or typed, can be bullet points) and a short 250-300 word reflexive essay on their experience.

Reading Quizzes (20%)

There will be short reading quizzes over assigned required course materials throughout the semester. These will ensure comprehension and completion of assigned articles, book chapters, podcasts, and videos.

Midterm Reflection (5%)

The point of the midterm check-in is to revisit the goals in your beginning reflection, to reflect on what you have done so far and what you need to from now and to tell me how you think you are doing so far. This should be 250-500 words.

Interview Assignment (20%)

Students will be required to imagine, propose, formulate and execute original research on the anthropology of food. The student will use ethnographic methods to interview 1 person about a food-related topic. The student will need to focus both the interview questions and analysis around specific course concepts. This large assignment will be divided up into several parts.

Week 1: Interview Topic, Possible Interviewees & Ethics: 40 points

Week 1: 10 Interview Questions: 35 points

Week 3: Interview Transcript: 50 points

Week 4: Interview Analysis: 75 points

Total Points: 200 points

Final Reflection (10%)

The goals of this final reflection are twofold: 1) to take a step back from the class, think and discuss what you actually learned 2) to evaluate your overall work based on your beginning and midterm reflections and your general circumstances. This should be 500-750 words.

Take Home Final Essay (20%)

I will post the question(s) for the take home final exam to Blackboard with ample time for the students to complete the final. The exam is open-note and open-book. Your answer(s) to the assigned exam questions should total approximately 1,000-1,500 words.

7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

10. Course Schedule

Week 1: Anthropology, Food Anthropology Methods & Ethics

1. Read: Counihan, Carole and Penny Van Esterik. 2013. "Why Food? Why Culture? Why Now? Introduction" in *Food & Culture: A Reader* 2013. Edited by Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik. New York, NY: Routledge. p. 1-18.
2. Watch: Doing Anthropology (8 min); Ethnography (5 min); & Ethnography: Ellen Isaacs at TedxBroadway (12 min)

Week 2: Intersectionality: Social Class, Gender, & Race in relation to Food

1. Listen: E5: Food & Femininity (With Dr. Kate Cairns) from The Racist Sandwich Podcast (34 min)
2. Read: Williams-Forsen, Psyche, 1997. "More than just a "Big piece of Chicken": The Power of Race, Class and Food in American Consciousness" in *Food & Culture: A Reader* 2013. Edited by Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik. New York, NY: Routledge. p. 342-354.

Week 3: Whose your Farmer? Farm Workers, Food & the Body, Food & Globalization

1. Watch: Food Chains documentary (2 hours)
2. Read: Bordo, Susan. 2013. "Anorexia Not Just a White Girls Thing." in *Food & Culture: A Reader* 2013. Edited by Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik. New York, NY: Routledge. p. 265-275.

Week 4: Food Solutions (Charity, Policy, Farmers Markets, Community Gardens, Reparations) & Critiques

1. Read: Poppendieck, Janet. 2013. "Want Amid Plenty: From Hunger to Inequality" in *Food & Culture: A Reader* Edited by Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik. New York, NY: Routledge. p. 563-571.
2. Watch: How Food & Nutrition Policy Gets Decided: USA Example (11 min), What Policies Can Make Our Food System More Sustainable (5 min) and How can we change our food system? (2 min)