General Course Information

Instructor: Lopamudra Roychoudhuri  
E-mail: lroychoudhuri@angelo.edu  
Office: MCS 205E  
Campus Phone: (325) 486-5448  
Class Times: TR 3:30-4:20 pm  
Classroom: MCS 115  
Course Web Site: Blackboard  
Office Hours: MW 2:00-5:00pm, TR 2:00-3:00pm, F 2:00-4:00pm.

Communication
Communication between you and I will be in-person, or via email, Skype or phone.

- **Email:** You are required to obtain an e-mail account. You will receive announcement emails from me and occasional direct emails that you are expected to respond promptly. You can email me any time. I shall reply within 24 hours. Please include 'GS 1181-F08' in the subject line.
- **Skype:** My user name in Skype is lroychoudhuri. Please send me a contact request from your Skype, so that I have your user name. You will need to send me a Skype request, so that I know who you are. I shall be available on Skype during office hours.
- **If you have any question about the course or need assistance, please contact me in person, by phone or Skype during office hours, or by e-mail at any time.**

Course Description:
This course will explore the impact of culture and geography on food. We will discuss the ways geography and cultures contribute to the variety of food in different parts of the world. We will discuss food production, distribution, security and access. We will also research on how food, when prepared and consumed, can be representative of a culture. Teams of students will propose research topics, watch recipe and other videos, write papers, make presentations, and possibly share real food items that are culturally significant.

Course Requirements:
- Two article summaries (see Assignments and Schedule sections below for details).
- Team project presentation and individual reports.
- Participation at a university event.
- Completion of ASU Library Information Literacy tutorial.
Required Materials:
- There is no required textbook for this course. Reading material from various sources (book excerpts, articles and websites) will be posted under Blackboard. You are required to study these, as quizzes and summary assignments will follow.
- You must have an adequate computer and Internet connectivity in order to participate fully in the class. A table describing supported browsers can be viewed on Blackboard’s support site.

Student Learning Goals:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Develop skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing,
2. Find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems,
3. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Class Policies:
TEAMS
You will form teams of 3 or 4. The teams will be chosen on the first day of class, and will be maintained till the end of class.

TEAM PROJECT
Each team will select a food and ethnicity related topic. Individual team members will research on a number of related subtopics. The outcome of the project will be a team presentation in front of the class, where each team will prepare a 20 minute presentation and answer related questions. In addition, as a team member, you will submit your own project report that clearly shows your contributions to the project. The grade from this part will constitute 50% of the total grade.

ASSIGNMENTS
- Readings and related assignments: You will complete some reading from the sources posted prior to class sessions. This may be validated by team quizzes. The grade from quizzes will constitute 15% of the total grade. You may also be asked to summarize the article in writing. The grade from article summaries will constitute 10% of the total grade.
- In-class Team Assignments: We will discuss topics in class and work on assignments in teams. Assignments that could not be completed in class will be taken out-of-class and turned in. The grade from these assignments will constitute 15% of the total grade.
- Homework Essays: The purpose of these assignments is to give you individual research time on the topics that we discuss in class, and to explore some ideas more deeply in the form of writing. This will constitute 10% of the total grade.
- All assignments, unless otherwise specified, must be submitted to Blackboard. No late assignment will be accepted. No e-mail or in-person submission is accepted. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- All homework assignments should be the work product of each individual. Cheating occurs when a student either submits work for a grade that is not entirely due to his/her own effort or allows others to use her/his work. Cheating occurs when a student submits work product that
is copied from the Internet or another student. Cheating on an assignment will result in a failing grade for the course.

- **Academic Honor Code:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf). You should familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, the student may receive a sanction of failure on the assignment/exam or failure in the course. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please ask.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory (*no excused absences*) and roll will be taken.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Weights</th>
<th>Goals Assessed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1 thru 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2 thru 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Summaries</td>
<td>Bi-weekly</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1 thru 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Team Assignments</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59</td>
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**Week by week tentative schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| 1    | 8/29, 8/31 | Topic: Introduction, forming teams, What is Food? Team Activity: My Favorite Food  
Reading and article summary: *Food and Culture* by Kittler, Sucher & Nelms, ch.1, 1st 5 pages |
| 2    | 9/5, 9/7   | Topic: Food - Identity and Ethnicity  
Team activity: Compare food from two countries  
Team Project proposals on Ethnicity and Food due on Thu 9/7 |
| 3    | 9/12, 9/14 | Topic: Food Production  
Reading and article summary: *Green Revolution – Curse or Blessing?* from International Food Policy Research Institute  
ASU Library Information Literacy instruction session on Tue 9/12  
Information Literacy tutorial due on Sun 9/17 |
| 4    | 9/19, 9/21 | Topic: Food Distribution and Access  
Writing assignment: What’s on My Plate? Dinner at the ASU Food Service Center  
Field trip to a grocery store, and possibly to the San Angelo Farmer’s Market |
5
9/26, 9/28
Topic: Food and Religion
Team activity: Research on taboo foods
Report from field trip(s) due

6
10/3, 10/5
Topic: Fast Food Culture, Globalization Effect
Team Activity: Research on regional adjustments by fast food companies
Thu: Team presentations begin

7
10/10, 10/12
Team presentations continue

8
10/17, 10/19
Team presentations continue
Final project reports due on Thu 10/19
Potluck party of ethnic foods on Thu 10/19

GRADEBOOKS
During the course of the semester, you are expected to monitor your performance on assignments
and exams by accessing your grades online. It is your responsibility to: (1) insure that correct
entries have been made into the gradebook, and (2) be aware of your performance in the class.
Grade percentages are shown on this syllabus so you can compute your own grade standing as the
semester progresses.

General Policy Statements

Academic Accommodations: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic
accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112, University Center, in order to
request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are
encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be
made.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day
1. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt
from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.
2. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in
writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the
observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an
assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
3. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the
instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

Modifications to the syllabus
The instructor and the university reserve the right to modify or change the syllabus (schedule,
course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).