

Sociology of Food and Food Justice

SOCI X315

M, W, F 12:30-1:20pm

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Mon 11:30am-12:15pm, Wed 2:30-3:00pm pm OR By Appointment

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Course Description

In this class we explore key sociological concepts through the lens of food: socialization, power, identities, social status, political economy, social inequalities, gender, social movements, and globalization. The study of food production and consumption allows us to understand the relationships between people, food and cultures and also allows us to explore how systems of international production and trade influence the food choices we make.

Course Objectives

This course aims to contribute to the following objectives of **Loyola's Common Curriculum**:

- Critical and analytic reasoning skills
- Effective skills in research, writing, speaking, reading, and listening
- Comprehension of the great historical, economic, political, social, and technological forces that shape societies.
- The ability to reflect on and critique the presupposed values latent within our world, our commitments, our beliefs, our methodologies, our institutions, and our courses of study.
- A commitment to social justice

In addition, the course aims to contribute to the following learning objectives developed by the **Department of Sociology**:

- Appreciation for discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.
- Knowledge of basic concepts in sociology.
- Understand the role of theory in sociology and applying theories to social phenomena.
- Ability to think critically about the social world.
- An appreciation for the social diversity of U.S. society and an understanding of the position of the U.S. in the global system.

- Ability to identify and think critically about one's own position and the positions of others on social justice issues and the ways in which they are pursued in the community through social action.

Disability Services and Accommodations

If you have a disability and wish to receive accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 504-865-2990. If you wish to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time), you will need to give the course instructor an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located in Marquette Hall 112.

Plans for Instruction During Emergency/Evacuation

At times, ordinary university operations are interrupted as a result of tropical storms, hurricanes, or other emergencies that require evacuation or suspension of on-campus activities. To prepare for such emergencies, all students will do the following during the first week of classes:

1. Practice signing on for each course through Blackboard.
2. Provide regular and alternative e-mail address and phone contact information to each instructor.

In the event of an interruption to our course due to the result of an emergency requiring an evacuation or suspension of campus activities, students will:

3. Pack textbooks, assignments, syllabi and any other needed materials for each course and bring during an evacuation/suspension
4. Keep up with course work during the evacuation/suspension as specified on course syllabi and on-line Blackboard courses.
5. Complete any reading and/or writing assignments given by professors before emergency began.

Assuming a power source is available....

6. Log on to university Web site within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension.
7. Monitor the main university site (www.loyno.edu) for general information.
8. Log on to each course through Blackboard or e-mail within 48 hours of an evacuation/suspension to receive further information regarding contacting course instructors for assignments, etc.
9. Complete Blackboard and/or other online assignments posted by professors (students are required to turn in assignments on time during the evacuation/suspension period and once the university campus has reopened.)
10. Contact professors during an evacuation/suspension (or as soon as classes resume on campus) to explain any emergency circumstances that may have prevented them from completing expected work.

Required Readings

Food Justice 2013 by Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi
Publisher: The MIT Press, ISBN-10: 026251866X
ISBN-13: 978-0262518666

The Sociology of Food and Agriculture, 2016, 2nd Edition
by Michael Carolan
ISBN-10: 1138946257, ISBN-13: 978-1138946255

Other required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements	Percentage of Course
Service Analysis Papers (3)	30
Food Auto-ethnography	30
Online Session Quizzes	20
Reading Responses	10
Attendance and Participation	10
Total	100

Grading Breakdown (by percentage):

93-100 A 73-76 C
90-92 A- 70-72 C-
87-89 B+ 67-69 D+
83-86 B 63-66 D
80-82 B- 60-62 D-
77-79 C+ <60 F

Teaching and Learning Philosophy

Much learning takes place through hands on experience and through conversation with others who know more than we do about these experiences. While we cannot travel across the country or around the world to experience much of what we will discuss first-hand, we can enter into these experiences through texts, film, and different kinds of online simulations and activities. For this reason, our Friday sessions will ALL take place online where we will reflect with each other on what we have read, seen or heard that week. The section below on “Online Session Quizzes and Reading Responses” will explain how these Friday virtual meetings work.

Informed discussion and dialogue is a central part of learning. For this reason, you will need to come to class having carefully read and reflected upon the material we will discuss each Monday and Wednesday during our face-to-face meetings.

Online Session Quizzes and Reading Responses

All Monday and Wednesday sessions will meet face to face and all Friday sessions will be conducted online. The content of the Friday online sessions will include a 5 question multiple choice, open-book quiz AND your written, qualitative reading response to one or more of the following: a reading, film, or online simulation or activity.

For online sessions you will be required to complete the reading, film or online activity and then complete the activities outlined for that session. These sessions are mandatory and will be graded.

In-Class Participation

This part of your grade is based on a combination of attendance and verbal participation in class discussions on Mondays and Wednesdays. I will take attendance and will make note of your participation in Monday and Wednesday discussions. In order to get credit, your participation needs to be based on your engagement with and direct reference to the reading with page numbers.

Reflection Papers and Service Learning

Service learning provides a wonderful opportunity for you to apply abstract ideas to concrete experience. A minimum of 20 hours of service is required at an approved service site. You will be asked to complete **three reflection papers** that will be based on critical reflection on your service work, course readings, external readings and lectures. These papers must integrate material from readings as well as from your experience at the service site.

NOTE: Failure to complete the full 20 hours that are required will result in the following penalties: 1) a loss of 1% point from this portion of the final grade for every hour not completed by the final day of class; AND 2) no notation on your transcript that service learning was a part of the course.

Food Auto-ethnography

An ethnography is a piece of writing that describes the life of a social or cultural group. An auto-ethnography is a piece of writing where the author uses the observational methods of ethnographic research to take close note of his/her own life experiences with the goal of using those experiences to gain greater insight into larger social and political processes and phenomena.

For our purposes, we will use auto-ethnography to do the following:

- Practice the skill of engaging in close observation and writing field notes
- Apply concepts and theories we read about and discuss in class to our everyday lives

- Produce a compelling piece of writing that illuminates larger social and political processes occurring in our society by using our own experience as a lens for seeing these processes in new ways and reflecting self-consciously on them.

Policy on Late Work

Online Session Quizzes: **NO late work will be accepted.** If the online contribution has not been received by the due date and time it will not be accepted.

Reading Responses: **NO late work will be accepted.** These cannot be accepted late as the responses are integrated into class discussion right after they are due.

Service Analysis Papers: Any of the papers may be turned in up to 7 days late with 10% taken off of the grade for each day late (Saturdays and Sundays are also included as days where points will be lost).

Food Auto-ethnography: The first parts of the assignment may be turned in up to 7 days late with 10% taken off of the grade for each day late (Saturdays and Sundays are also included as days where points will be lost). **BUT the final version MUST be turned in on time** because excerpts will be collected and distributed for everyone in the class to read. For this reason there can be no late submissions.

IMPORTANT:

- Bring your reading to EVERY class. This means that you must bring the textbook and/or print out the readings from Blackboard each time we meet.

Introductions: Food and Food Justice		
M	8/21	Introductions and Course Overview
W	8/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Introduction: Taking Root", Introduction in <i>Food Justice</i> • "Whose Right to Farm the City-New Orleans?"
F	8/25	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 8/27 by 11:59pm
M	8/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Our National Eating Disorder" Introduction <i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i> • "Introduction: The Changing Structure of Agriculture" Introduction in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i>
W	8/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Growing and Producing Food" Ch. 1 in <i>Food Justice</i> • "Inside a Poultry Processing Plant"
F	9/1	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 9/3 by 11:59pm
M	9/4	Labor Day Holiday
W	9/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Understanding the food system: past, present and future" Ch. 2 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • Study Commodity Chains on Bb
F	9/8	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 9/10 by 11:59pm
M	9/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Community, Labor and Peasantries", Chapter 5 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • "Corporate Chickens and Community Conflict in East Texas" • "A Day in the Strawberry Fields Seems Like Forever"
W	9/13	***** Auto-ethnography Part 1 Due ***** WTO Case Studies
F	9/15	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 9/17 by 11:59pm
M	9/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Accessing Food" Ch. 2 in <i>Food Justice</i> • "Food Access in Central and South Los Angeles"
W	9/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Malnutrition: Hidden and Visible" Ch. 3 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • "You Have to Hunt for the Fruits and Vegetables" • "The U.S. Role in Haiti's Food Riots"
F	9/22	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 9/24 by 11:59pm
M	9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Consuming Food" Ch. 3 in <i>Food Justice</i> • "The role of food prepared away from home in the American diet"

W	9/27	<p><u>Decide on When to do SNAP for a Day (before Oct. 4th)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Food and Culture” Ch. 6 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • “Affective sustainable landscapes and care ecologies: Getting a real feel for alternative food communities”
F	9/29	<p><u>Decide on When to do SNAP for a Day (before Oct. 4th)</u></p> <p>Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 10/1 by 11:59pm</p>
M	10/2	<p><u>Decide on When to do SNAP for a Day (before Oct. 4th)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Gender, ethnicity and poverty”, Ch. 7 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • “Bringing Good Food to Others”
W	10/4	<p>*****Service Analysis 1 Due*****</p> <p>Report on SNAP for a Day Activity</p>
F	10/6	<p>Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 10/8 by 11:59pm</p>
M	10/9	FALL BREAK
W	10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Food Politics” Ch. 4 in <i>Food Justice</i> • “Breakfast and the Achievement Gap Among Urban Minority Youth”
F	10/13	<p>Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 10/15 by 11:59pm</p>
M	10/16	<p>*****Auto-ethnography part 2 due*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Food, Agriculture, and the Environment” Ch. 10 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i>
W	10/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Agrobiocultural Diversity and Knowledge Transfer” Ch. 8 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • “Re-purposing the Master’s Tools-Open Source Seed Initiative”
F	10/20	<p>Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 10/22 by 11:59pm</p>
M	10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Food System Goes Global” Ch. 5 in <i>Food Justice</i> • “Fast Food in France” • “A Baker’s Crusade: Rescuing the Famed French Boulangerie”
W	10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Alternative agri-food networks” Ch. 12 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • “Not Just the Price of Food”

F	10/27	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 10/29 by 11:59pm
M	10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Growing Justice” Ch. 6 in <i>Food Justice</i> • “If they only knew”
W	11/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The ‘traps’ in agri-food studies...and beyond” Ch. 13 in <i>Sociology of Food and Agriculture</i> • “Avoid the Local Trap”
F	11/3	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 11/5 by 11:59pm
M	11/6	<p>*****Service Analysis 2 Due*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Forging New Food Routes” Ch 7 in <i>Food Justice</i> • “Flow of Food and People Across the City”
W	11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Transforming the Food Experience”, Ch. 8 in <i>Food Justice</i> • “Fast Food/Organic Food”
F	11/10	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 11/12 by 11:59pm
M	11/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A New Food Politics” Ch. 9 in <i>Food Justice</i>
W	11/15	<p>*****Submit Final Auto-Ethnography Paper*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “An Emerging Movement” Ch. 10 in <i>Food Justice</i>
F	11/17	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 11/19 by 11:59pm Online
M	11/20	<i>Special Online Session See Bb for Instructions</i>
W	11/22	Thanksgiving Break
F	11/24	Thanksgiving Break
M	11/27	<p>*****Service Analysis 3 Due*****</p> <p>Auto-ethnography readings and discussion</p>
W	11/29	Auto-ethnography readings and discussion
F	12/1	Online Session – See instructions on Blackboard Participate in Forum By: Sunday, 12/3 by 11:59pm Online
M	12/4	Auto-ethnography readings and discussion
W	12/6	Wrap Up Discussion
F	12/8	NO Class