ANTH 393
Ethnography of Food: The Politics of Food and Hunger

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Margo Matwychuk

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is intended to provide the opportunity to overview some of the political, economic, ecological and social aspects of contemporary food production, distribution and consumption. Its main focus is contemporary issues of food and inequality, with emphasis on food and hunger, industrialization, globalization, food and gender/race/class, and alternative food movements. The course will survey and dissect strategies and debates concerning inequalities produced and sustained through contemporary systems of food production, distribution, and consumption. In addition, the course will engage a critical examination of food-related social movements and various approaches to enhance food security and food sovereignty. The course aims to provide both academic analysis and awareness of local and global activisms. The organizing question of the course will be how food production, distribution, and consumption can be organized in ways that are socially and ecologically responsible.

Students will be required to develop a research paper and to think critically and reflexively about how food and inequality intersect. Students will be given the opportunity to improve their communication skills and critical thinking within class discussion and written assignments cultural situations.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Knowledge and application of key concepts and theories in the cultural anthropological analysis of food
- Development of knowledge and skills in thinking critically about food
- Understand how patterns of food production, distribution and consumption reflect social inequality.
- Understand food as a human right and how food intersects with gender/race/class and other social structures
- Recognize the complexities of food politics at the local and the global systems level while critically engaging with your own eating habits and food practices
- Acquire improved reading, writing and orals communication skills.