

ANTH 393

Bread Beyond Borders: Food and Migration

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rachel Brown

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

First, we will unpack the question of identity negotiation. Identity becomes a particularly important subject when the migrant encounters other identities that are different than their own. This is especially the case when moving from being a part of a majority identity to a minority identity. For many transnational migrants, their home land and host land identities therefore come into question and they must negotiate not only how they view themselves but how they present these identities in their transnational contexts. We will use food to show how these important negotiations take place. Within this topic, questions of authenticity and hybridity will be addressed.

Second, most transnational migrants engage in processes of crossing and dwelling. That is, they attempt to cross borders, both physically and psychologically, between the home and host land; they cross. They also make efforts to create some aspect of the homeland in the host land, and to take on some of the host land practices/identities; they dwell. In this section of the course we will explore the ways that food aides in the crossing and dwelling of transnational migrants. We will investigate how food is a powerful means of maintaining connection to the homeland, to helping migrants create home in the host land, and to engaging the people and practices of the host land.

Next, we will address the question of integration and whether it is possible to be integrated and transnational at the same time. Again, food will be the way we examine migrants' integration efforts, showing how food can be a tool for integration and not necessarily a barrier to it. We will also address how food can be a means to push back at problematic integration rhetoric. Once we have addressed these key themes we will put our knowledge to work seeing how the topics we have been discussing throughout class show up in film, cookbooks and in the stories of migrants themselves.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- (1) Identify and explain key themes in the study of transnational migration;
- (2) Use food and food studies as a tool to express broader trends in the study of migration and transnationalism;
- (3) Learn, and implement qualitative research methods by conducting fieldwork;
- (4) Apply course materials/knowledge to multiple forms of data: academic sources, film, cookbooks, interviews, and stories