

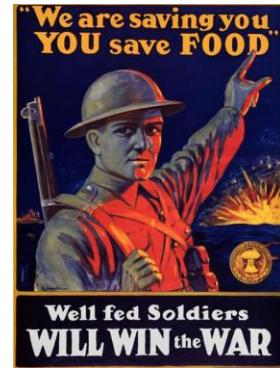
Food, Hunger, and Power in the Modern World (Draft)

HIST 300C-1, Spring 2016

Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:45, 303 Mundelein Center

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Office Hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm
or by appointment
506 Crown Center



This course examines the ways in which conflicts over food have shaped the modern world. We will explore changing ways of understanding and fighting famines (focusing on Ireland, India, and Ethiopia), as well as looking at the ways in which food was a “weapon of war” during the First and Second World Wars. Finally, the course will analyze the ways in which race, gender, and class have shaped our country’s food and welfare policies.

Upon completion of the course, you will have:

1. an awareness of the political, social, cultural, and economic meanings of food
2. acquired exposure to varied methodological approaches to studying food and hunger (anthropology, economics, sociology, psychology, gender studies etc.)
3. completed an independent research project on a topic of your choice
4. gained an understanding of the historical context for many of our most pressing contemporary social concerns.
5. learned how food and hunger are central to struggles for social justice

Course Requirements

Participation: 30%

Current Events Postings and Comments: 20%

Final Paper Outline: 5%

In-Class Presentation of Final Research Topic: 5%

Final paper: 40%

Current Events Postings (3):

Find an article from an on-line news-source (this cannot be a blog or personal web-page; it must be an on-line version of a print source) on a current issue or event that is related to any aspect of that unit's readings. Post the link on the appropriate Forum accessed through Sakai, along with one paragraph (3-5 sentences) explaining how it relates to the readings associated with the themes of the class. These must be analytic comments explaining HOW this article made you think about a SPECIFIC aspect of the relevant theme. Do not restate or summarize the article or event – descriptions will not receive credit! You must post one current event for each of the first three units (empire, war, poverty). You cannot make up a missed unit. You are also required to comment on at least 4 articles and comments posted by other students over the course of the semester.

Final Paper: 10-15 pages. Due Tuesday May 3rd by 4 pm.

Choose any historical event that was not covered in this class and that is related in some way to food and hunger and write a short research paper. This is a formal history research paper, requiring citations, bibliography, title, etc..

Required Books (tentative list):

1. Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*
2. Mike Davis. *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*
3. Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz*
4. Sue Levine, *School Lunch Politics: The Surprising History of America's Favorite Welfare Program*

Weekly Schedule and Readings

UNIT 1: WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT FOOD AND HUNGER

Week 1: Thinking about Food and Hunger

Tuesday January 19: Introduction

Thursday January 21: Methodologies of Eating

Readings:

Barthes, "Toward a Psychosociology of Contemporary Food Consumption"

Bourdieu, "Taste of Luxury, Taste of Necessity"

Bordo, "Hunger as Ideology"

Sen, "Ingredients of Famine Analysis: Availability and Entitlements"

Week 2: A Case Study: The Rise of Cane Sugar

Tuesday January 26 The Sugar Economy

Readings:

Mintz *Sweetness and Power*, pgs. 3-150

Thursday January 28 Food and Power

Readings:

Mintz *Sweetness and Power*, pgs. 151-214

Week 3: Conceptualizing a Historical Research Project on Food and Hunger

Tuesday February 2 Developing a Research Topic

Homework: Begin research for your final paper.

Thursday February 4 Finding Sources for a History Research Paper

Homework: Bring to class one *printed-out* page including a paragraph description of your topic and the titles of at least three books and/or articles that would be appropriate sources.

UNIT 2: IMPERIAL FAMINES

Week 4: Famine in Ireland

Tuesday February 9 Theories of Population and Hunger

Readings:

Malthus, "An Essay on the Principle of Population" (Book I, Chapters 1-2; Book IV Chapters 1-2; Book IV, Chapter 14) (available online)
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Malthus/malPlong.html>

Thursday February 11 The Irish Potato Famine

Readings:

Gray "Ideology and the Famine"

Crawford, "Food and Famine"

Week 5: Famine in India

Tuesday February 16 Food and the British Empire

Readings:

Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts*, pgs. 1-16, 25-59, 141-175

Thursday February 18 Indian Famines

Readings:

Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts*, pgs. 279-340

Week 6: Imperial Famine and its Legacies

Tuesday February 23 Explaining Famines

Readings:

Mitchel, *Last Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)*

Trevelyan, *The Irish Crisis*

Thursday February 25 Hunger, Power, and the End of Empire

Readings:

Brown, "Gandhi and the Hunger Strike in India"

Gandhi, "Letter to the Raj," "The Salt March, 1935"

UNIT 3: FOOD, WAR, AND VIOLENCE

Week 7: Food as a Weapon in World War One

Tuesday March 1 The British Hunger Blockade

Readings:

Jourdain, "Air Raid Reprisals and Starvation by Blockade"

Thursday March 3 Hunger on the Homefront

Readings:

Davis, "Food and Women's Everyday Life during the First World War"

Week 8: Spring Break: Continue Working on your Paper!

Week 9: Food in the Holocaust

Tuesday March 15 Nazism and Food

Readings:

Tooze, "Food, Labor and Genocide"

Thursday March 17 Understanding the Holocaust through Hunger

Readings:

Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

UNIT 4: POVERTY AND HUNGER IN THE UNITED STATES

Week 10 The US School Lunch Program

Tuesday March 22 Ways of Feeding Children in the US

Readings:

Levine, *School Lunch Politics*

Thursday March 24 The Rise of the Modern School Lunch

Readings:

Levine, *School Lunch Politics*

Week 11: Food, Farming, and Poverty

Tuesday March 29 The Great Depression

Readings:

Janet Poppendieck, *Breadlines Knee Deep in Wheat: Food Assistance in the Great Depression*: Introduction, Chapters 2 and 3

Steinbeck, "Harvest Gypsies"

Thursday March 31: Individual Meetings with Professor

Homework: Due by Midnight Friday April 1st (no joke☺): an outline of your final paper including a bibliography and a drafted introduction or opening paragraph that includes your tentative thesis statement.

Week 12: Race and Food Activism in the United States

Tuesday April 5 Discovering Hunger in America

Readings:

Poppendieck, *Breadlines Knee Deep in Wheat*, Chapter 12

Kornbluh, "Food as a Civil Right: Hunger, Work and Welfare in the South after the Civil Rights Act"

Thursday April 7 Food, Race, and Power

Readings:

Heynen, "Bending the Bars of Empire from Every Ghetto for Survival: The Black Panther Party's Radical Antihunger Politics of Social Reproduction and Scale"

Week 13: The Evolution of US Food Policies

Tuesday April 12

Readings:

MacDonald, "Food Stamps: an Analytic History"

Fitchen, "Hunger, Malnutrition and Poverty in the United States"

Thursday April 14

Readings:

Poppendieck, *Breadlines Knee Deep in Wheat*, Epilogue

UNIT 5: FAMINES IN THE COMTEMPORARY WORLD

Week 14: The “Paradox” of Famine in a World of Plenty

Tuesday April 19 Famines and the Media

Readings:

Berg, “How the Media Ignores Hunger”

Moeller, “Covering Famine: The Famine Formula”

CNN, “Live Aid 1985: A Day of Magic”

“Band Aid's Gift of Song”

Oxfam, “Band Aids and Beyond”

Thursday April 21 The Fight against Hunger Today

Readings:

Kaufman, "Let them Eat Cash!"

Homework: Everyone bring to class a *printed-out* article on a contemporary famine or serious food shortage happening somewhere in the world.

Week 15: Presentation of Research Topics

Tuesday April 26 Presentations of Final Projects

Thursday April 28 Wrap-Up Discussion of Food, Hunger, and Power

Final Papers Due Tuesday May 3rd by 4 pm.

Unless approved by me before hand, late submissions will be penalized by being dropped one full letter grade for each day late.