

Course Title	: Food, Culture and Identity
Course Code	: CLB9014
Recommended Study Year	: 1 to 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3.0
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Teaching Hours	: One 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial weekly
Category in Major Prog.	: Core Curriculum: Humanities and the Arts Cluster
Prerequisite	: Nil

Course Description:

Not only is food vital for survival, it is also a substance that is important to the construction of cultures and identities. Indeed, whether it is the sense of robust unpretentiousness that is often associated with the American hamburger or the meticulous attentiveness of the *kaiseki ryori* 懷石料理, there are undeniable similarities behind the process of associating one type of food to a particular nationality and the imagination/construction of that national identity. The study of the gastronomical practices of one group of people, thus, provides a unique and an effective means to gain introspective insights into the forming of various cultural traditions as well as to facilitate the understanding of the process of the formation of cultural identity.

By focusing on the various representations of food in both Chinese and Western cultures, in different mediums that include but are not limited to the literary and the visuals, this course challenges students to look beyond the idea of food as simply a nourishment and to consider the inherent relationship between food and cultural identity in both the Eastern and Western contexts and its translational importance as a means for facilitating cultural exchanges.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

Through the study of literary works in films and in texts, which will be complemented by the readings of various theories on food and identity, this course aims to enhance students' awareness of the cultural and social significance of food across cultures and to encourage them to explore the metaphorical and theoretical importance of food in a cultural context.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify issues relating to food as thematised in literature and the arts;
2. compare and contrast the impact of food on different cultures from a bilingual and intercultural perspective;
3. evaluate and contextualize personal experiences of food;
4. analyse the role food cultures play in identity formation; and
5. apply critical reading techniques to the food theme as conveyed in literature and the arts;

Indicative Content:

1. Introduction: Food as medicine; Food as nutrient; Food as sustenance;
2. Food in a cultural perspective: classifications and avoidances;
3. Food, eating/cooking and identity: Kitchen and banquet narratives (both written and visual texts) in the context of;
 - (a) the family
 - (b) gender

- (c) displacement
- (d) globalization
- 4. Food as an expanding code—from a global and cross-cultural perspective.

Teaching Method:

Lectures, screenings, tutorial discussions

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

	Group Presentation	Mid-term Assignment	Individual Term Paper
1. identify issues relating to food as thematised in literature and the arts	x		
2. compare and contrast the impact of food on different cultures from a bilingual and intercultural perspective	x		x
3. evaluate and contextualize personal experiences of food	x	x	x
4. analyse the role food cultures play in identity formation	x	x	x
5. apply critical reading techniques to the food theme as conveyed in literature and the arts	x	x	

Assessment:

Assessment tasks:

- Group Presentation 30%
- Mid-term Assignment 30%
- Individual Term Paper 40%

Required Readings:

Counihan, Carole and Penny Van Esterik. eds. *Food and Culture: A Reader*. New York, Routledge, 2007.

Tutorial readings will be assigned by the tutor for close analysis. The following is an indicative list of texts in Chinese and English:

- William Shakespeare. *Titus Andronicus*. 1590.
- Margaret Atwood. *The Edible Woman*. 1969.
- Amy Tan. *The Kitchen God's Wife*. 1991.
- Laura Esquivel. *Like Water for Chocolate*. 1992.
- Toni Morrison. *The Day and Its Splendid Parts*. 2008.
- Louis Chu. *Eat a Bowl of Tea*. 1961.
- Cao Xueqin 曹雪芹. *Dream of the Red Chamber* 《紅樓夢》. 1784.
- Mo Yan 莫言. *The Republic of Wine* 《酒國》. 1992.
- Ang Lee 李安. *Pushing Hands* 《推手》 (film text). 1992.

Ang Lee李安. *The Wedding Banquet* 《喜宴》 (film text). 1993.
 Ang Lee李安. *Eat Drink Man Woman* 《飲食男女》 (film text). 1995.
 Li Bihua 李碧華. *Dumplings* 《餃子》. 2004.
 Leung Ping Kwan也斯. *Postcolonial Affairs of Food and the Heart* 《後殖民食物與愛情》. 2009.

Supplementary Readings:

焦桐 (ed), 《文學的餐桌：飲食美文精選》，桂林：廣西師範大學出版社，2004。
 呂放，《飲食－紅樓夢中文學表達的特色之媒》，曲阜：曲阜師範大學，2008。
 焦桐 (ed), 《味覺的土風舞：“飲食文學與文化國際學術研討會論文集”》，台灣：二魚文化事業，2009。
 焦桐 (ed), 《飯碗中的雷聲：客家飲食文學與文化國際學術研討會論文集》，台灣：二魚文化事業，2010。
 Barthes, Roland. *Empire of Signs*. Tran. Richard Howard, New York: Hill and Wang, 1982.
 Counihan, Carole. *The Anthropology of Food and Body: Gender, Meaning, and Power*. London: Routledge, 1999.
 Fitzpatrick, Joan. ed. *Renaissance Food from Rabelais to Shakespeare: Culinary Readings and Culinary Histories*. Burlington: Ashgate, 2010.
 Mahar, Cheleen Ann-Catherine. ed. *Cuisine and Symbolic Capital: Food in Film and Literature*, Middlesex: Cambridge Scholars, 2010.
 Pollen, Michael. *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*. New York: Penguin Press, 2008.
 Xu, Wenying. *Eating Identities: Reading Food in Asian American Literature*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2008.
www.food.com
<http://gogolgastronomy.blogspot.com>

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.