

SYA4011: Social Theory RVC

Course Syllabus

Prof. A. Douglas Kincaid

SIPA 333, Tel. 305 348-6172

Office Hours: T-Th 2:00-3:00 pm

E-mail: kincaidd@fiu.edu

Course Description and Purpose

This course provides a research-oriented approach to the study of social theory. Students will learn to articulate basic definitions of what constitutes a social theory, core concepts of food studies and social movements. Each student will conduct a research project that applies concepts of social theory and food studies to a case study of a food-oriented social movement, thus demonstrating research, analytical and presentation skills.

Course Objectives

In this course students will learn to:

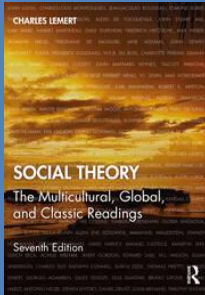
1. Describe the usefulness of social theory in producing an understanding of our social lives.
2. Summarize the ways in which social theory has sought to make sense of the extraordinary and accelerating social changes that have affected human societies since the 19th century.
3. Identify the structure and logic of the global food system that arose as part of those changes.
4. Distinguish the significance of food production, distribution, and consumption not simply for human reproduction, but also for such important issues as health, poverty, sustainability, social power, and social identity.
5. Analyze the prospects of social action and social movements oriented toward the goals of food security and sovereignty.

To accomplish those objectives, students will read and discuss a wide range of texts that use social theory to explain social change. They will focus on the Slow Food movement as an effort to produce social change in food systems and undertake research projects to apply social theory to the Slow Food movement. Students will also work in small groups to advance these discussions and develop a wider perspective on the quest for food that is “good, clean, and fair,” according to the criteria of the Slow Food movement.

Course Prerequisites

This course has a prerequisite: either ANT2000, GEA2000, or SYG2000, or instructor's permission.

Textbook and Course Materials



Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings (Required)
Charles Lemert
Routledge, 7th Edition, 2021
ISBN: 9780367272685



Slow Food Nation: Why our Food Should be Good, Clean, and Fair
Carlo Petrini
Rizzoli Ex Libris, 1st Edition, 2013
ISBN-10: 0847841308 ISBN-13: 978-0847841301

Additional Readings and Materials

The following selections are accessible online through the library:

[Food and Culture \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, eds. Routledge. New York. 2013.

- Ch. 7. Industrial Food: Towards the Development of a World Cuisine. Jack Goody. Pp. 7290
- Ch. 28. Slow Food and the Politics of “Virtuous Globalization.” Alison Leitch. Pp. 409-425
- Ch. 34. Fast Food/Organic Food: Reflexive Tastes and the Making of Yuppie Chow. Julie Guthman. Pp. 496509

[Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit](#)

Barry Estabrook. Andrews McMeel Publishing. 2012.

- Ch. 2: “A Tomato Grows in Florida” (PDF provided in course)

[Pig Tales: An Omnivore's Quest for Sustainable Meat](#) (Links to an external site.)

Barry Estabrook. W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

- Ch. 4: “Big Pig”. (PDF provided in course)

The videos listed below will be provided in the course:

Harvest of Shame. CRM/McGraw Hill Films, 1961. VHS. 54 minutes. HD5856.U5H37 1961

Food Chain\$: the revolution in America's fields. Screen Media Films, 2014. 83 min.

The Great Food Revolution, Part 1. 2014.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the getting started module.
- **Introduce themselves to the class** during the first week by posting a selfintroduction in the appropriate discussion forum.
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas. Log in to the course at least **3 times** per week.
- Respond to discussion postings on a weekly basis. Respond to **emails** within **3 days**.
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course **5 times** per week.
- Respond to discussion postings as needed.
- Respond to **emails** within **3 days**.
- Grade assignments within **10 days** of the assignment deadline.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Video Discussions

Students will participate in three **(3) online discussions of** assigned videos on food issues. Each video discussion is worth a maximum of 35 points **(105 points total)**.

- The video discussions are to be completed in the Discussions section of the course.
- Each student is expected to post at least three (3) times to each discussion.
- Each discussion will run for several weeks.

Note: keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Group Reading Discussions and Summaries

The class will be divided into five **(5) groups** for the purpose of conducting group discussions. Each group will have approximately six (6) members. The groups will be used for the **Group Reading Discussions** and planning for the individual research papers.

Group Reading Discussions

Students will participate in six **(6) online discussions** of assigned topics and readings within their assigned groups, based on questions provided by the instructor. Each reading discussion is worth a maximum of 20 points **(120 points total)**. Detailed assignment instructions will be provided in the course.

Students will first discuss each assigned topic/question within their private Group Discussion (a tool made available within each group). Each student is required to post at least twice in their Group Discussion for the scheduled week.

Group Reading Summaries

- Once the topic/question provided has been discussed, each group will be responsible for posting a summary of their discussion (approximately 3 paragraphs).
- Group Reading summaries must be posted to the appropriate discussion by **Sundays at 11:59 pm ET**.

A discussion rubric will be used to evaluate your posts. Access the [viewing discussion rubrics guide \(Links to an external site.\)](#) in order to see how you will be evaluated.

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. There are 12 **quizzes**, each worth a maximum of 10 points. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. **(100 points total)**.

- The quizzes consist of multiple choice and short answer questions based on the readings assigned during the week on which the quiz is due.
- There is no time limit to complete the quiz while it is open.
- Each quiz will become **available on Sunday at 1 pm ET** and will be **due the following Saturday by 11:59 pm ET**.
- Students will be able to see the quiz results within three (3) days of the quizzes closing date. The results include scores, questions, and correct answers.

Assignments

Please review the [important information about assignments](#) page.

Research Paper

- The subject of the research will be a specific convivium (local chapter) of the Slow Food Movement in the United States.
- Students will choose a specific convivium for study from a list provided to their groups by **Oct. 31** along with more specific instructions for the project. Papers will be submitted through Turnitin.com no later than **Dec. 3**.
- Papers will be evaluated according to proper form, research procedures, description of findings, soundness of conclusions, and quality of references.
- Evaluation and grades for papers will be provided by **Dec. 8 (100 possible points)**.

Please note that the following information only applies if your course requires the use of Turnitin to submit your assignments.

- Review the detailed [Turnitin instructions](#) on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

General Participation

Students will complete all quizzes, participate in all blogs and discussions, be consistent contributors to group activities and discussions, and show evidence of regular and sustained presence on the course website. **(75 possible points)**.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes* *The lowest two scores will be dropped.	12	10	100	20%
Group Reading Discussions and Summaries	6	20	120	24%
Video Discussions	3	35	105	21%
General Participation	N/A	N/A	75	15%
Research Paper	1	100	100	20%
Total	22	N/A	500	100%

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	92 or above	B	82 - 87	C	70 - 77
A-	90 - 91	B-	80 - 81	D	60 - 69
B+	88 - 89	C+	78 - 79	F	59 or less

Course schedule

Week	Topics	To-Do List
Week 1 Aug. 22 - 28	Topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the Course 	Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, Introduction Petrini, Introduction

Week	Topics	To-Do List
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-introduction post in Discussion Forum: due Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 11:59 pm
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1: opens Sunday, Aug. 28 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Sept. 3 at 11:59 pm
		Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 19 - 27 Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 7
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video Discussion, Harvest of Shame opens Monday, Aug. 29 and due Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:59 pm
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1: due Saturday, Sept. 3 at 11:59 pm Quiz 2: opens Sunday, Sept. 4 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Sept. 10 at 11:59 pm
Week 2 Aug. 29 – Sept. 4	Topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classical theories The Industrial Food System 	
		Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrini: part I Lemert: group selections
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 1 summaries: due Sunday, Sept. 11 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 1, Harvest of Shame, continues; first post due Friday Sept. 9
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 2: due Saturday, Sept. 10 at 11:59 pm Quiz 3: opens Sunday, Sept. 11 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Sept. 17 at 11:59 pm
Week 3 Sept. 5 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Slow Food Classical theory readings 	
		Readings
Week 4 Sept. 12 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Theories and World Conflict 	

Week	Topics	To-Do List
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 149 - 160 Estabrook Tomatoland, Chapter 2 <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 1 comments: due Sunday, Sept. 18 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 1, Harvest of Shame, continues <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 3: due Saturday, Sept. 17 at 11:59 pm Quiz 4: opens Sunday, Sept. 18 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11:59 pm <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrini, Part II Lemert: group selections <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 2 summaries: due Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 1, Harvest of Shame, continues <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 4: due Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11:59 pm Quiz 5: opens Sunday, Sept. 25 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Oct. 1 at 11:59 pm
<p>Week 5 Sept. 19-25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Gastronomy Theory and Conflict readings 	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 215 - 227 Estabrook Pig Tales, Chapter 4 <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 2 comments: due Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 1, Harvest of Shame: due Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:59 pm <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 5: due Saturday, Oct. 1 at 11:59 pm
<p>Week 6 Sept. 26 – Oct. 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Golden Age" Industrial Meat Production 	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 215 - 227 Estabrook Pig Tales, Chapter 4 <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 2 comments: due Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 1, Harvest of Shame: due Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:59 pm <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 5: due Saturday, Oct. 1 at 11:59 pm

Week	Topics	To-Do List
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 6: opens Sunday, Oct. 2 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Oct. 8 at 11:59 pm
		Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrini, Part III Lemert, group selections
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 3 summaries: due Sunday, Oct. 9 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 2, Food Chains: opens Monday, Oct. 3 and due Sunday, Oct. 30 at 11:59 pm
Week 7 Oct. 3 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Principles of Food Quality Golden Age Voices 	Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 6: due Saturday, Oct. 8 at 11:59 pm Quiz 7: opens Sunday, February 27 at 1 pm and due Saturday, March 5 at 11:59 pm
		Term Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group submission of Slow Food chapter choices due Friday, Oct. 7 at 11:59 pm
		Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 287 - 297 Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 36
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 3 comments: due Sunday, Oct. 16 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 2, Food Chains, continues; first post due Friday Oct. 14
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 7: due Saturday, Oct. 15 at 11:59 pm Quiz 8: opens Sunday, Oct. 16 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Oct. 22 at 11:59 pm
Week 8 Oct. 10 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Rebellion Food Aid and Development 	
Week 9 Oct. 17 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Slow Food Movement in Action 	Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrini, Part IV

Week	Topics	To-Do List
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenging Voices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, group selections <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 4 summaries: due Sunday, Oct. 23 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 2, Food Chains, continues <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 8: due Saturday, Oct. 22 at 11:59 pm Quiz 9: opens Sunday, Oct. 23 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11:59 pm
Week 10 Oct. 24 - 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Modernity Food and Health: The Obesity Issue 	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 343 - 354 Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 37 <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 4 comments: due Sunday, Oct. 30 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 2, Food Chains: due Sunday, Oct. 30 at 11:59 pm <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 9: due Saturday, Oct. 29 at 11:59 pm Quiz 10: opens Sunday, Oct. 30 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11:59 pm
Week 11 Oct. 31 – Nov. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Slow Food Agenda Post-modern Voices 	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrini, Part V Lemert, group selections <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 5 summaries: due Sunday, Nov. 6 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 3, Great Food Revolution: opens Monday, Oct. 31 and due Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 11:59 pm <p>Quizzes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 10: due Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11:59 pm Quiz 11: opens Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1 pm and

Week	Topics	To-Do List
		due Saturday, Nov. 12 at 11:59 pm
Week 12 Nov. 7 - 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Globalization Theory The Organic Food Phenomenon 	Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemert, pp. 433 - 459 Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 34
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 5 comments: due Sunday, Nov. 13 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 3, Great Food Revolution, continues; first post due Friday Nov. 11
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 11: due Saturday, Nov. 12 at 11:59 pm Quiz 12: opens Sunday, Nov. 13 at 1 pm and due Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11:59 pm
Week 13 Nov. 14 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow Food: A Critical Assessment Globalization Perspectives 	Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 28 Lemert, group selections
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Discussion 6 summaries: due Sunday, Nov. 20 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 3, Great Food Revolution, continues
		Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 12: due Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11:59 pm
Week 14 Nov. 21 - 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food justice and food politics 	Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counihan and Van Esterik, Chapter 40
		Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reading Summary 6 comments: due Sunday, Nov. 27 at 11:59 pm Video Discussion 3, Great Food Revolution,

Week	Topics	To-Do List
		continues
		Research Paper
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Research Paper (<i>optional</i>): due Monday Nov. 21 at 11:59 pm
		Discussions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video Discussion 3, Great Food Revolution: due Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 11:59 pm
Week 15 Nov. 28 – Dec. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Conclusion 	Research Paper
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Paper: due Saturday, Dec. 3 at 11:59 pm