

CSOC 620 RELIGIONS AND FOOD: Feasts, Fasts, Famine and Farming

Drew Theological School

Tuesday 1:15-3:45, Fall 2015

Laurel Kearns

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Learning Goals: This course will be a collaborative exploration of these questions as we work through a range of material to come up with our answers. To do so, we will look at a range of The goal of the course is for students to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of social change, and feel empowered to work for social change.

RULES AND POLICIES:

- ***Moodle:*** Students have the responsibility of checking Moodle in order to access announcements, and many of the readings. Students are encouraged to share relevant news, articles, websites, resources, movies, songs that are relevant to the class. Students are also responsible for checking their Drew email.
- ***Inclusive language:*** It is Drew's policy to require in written work the fair use of inclusive language in reference to human gender and divinity. Theological or cultural objections to the use of inclusive language should be discussed with the professor. This course will illuminate why inclusive language, and actions, are important.
- ***Academic integrity:*** Paraphrasing too closely the work of others, or using an author's words as your own, is considered ***plagiarism*** and will lead to a failing grade. You **must always** put all of the author's words between quotations marks (""), with the appropriate citation/reference. Indeed, any phrase that is taken from the work of someone else (including from the internet/web) must be treated the same way. Try to put things in your own words; do not use quotations too often. Please always note in the text the citation of the source (you are expected to use correct citation and footnotes styles). In an effort to standardize practice, the Theological School (with the rest of the University) has adopted an ***academic integrity policy***. This course will strictly follow the Theological School's Standards of Academic Honesty Policy as defined in the article linked on the course Moodle site. ***PLEASE READ THIS.***
- ***Accommodations:*** Students who require accommodations are instructed to contact the Office of Accessibility Resources (formerly Office of Disability Services), BC 119C, 973-408-3962, for a private, confidential appointment. Accommodation Request Letters are issued to students after documentation, written by a qualified professional, is reviewed and accommodations are approved by OAR. Accommodations are implemented by faculty only after the student presents the Accommodation Request Letter issued by OAR. Letters should be presented to the faculty at least one week before the accommodation is needed. No accommodation can be implemented retroactively. Requests for accommodations for Fall 2015 should be submitted to OAR by September 15, 2015, but ideally within the first two weeks of class.

- **Ecological practice:** Please turn in all written work electronically. In the case of providing handouts or printing the readings for your own use, please try to print on both sides of the page, or on the back of already used paper, in an effort to bring ecologically sound practices into our academic work. (If you are printing in the library, just ask a research librarian and s/he will help you print on both sides of the paper.) Please also consider purchasing the highest percent recycled-content, chlorine-free paper possible. *Please avoid disposable drink cups and bottles.* If you plan to drink coffee or tea, please use a mug or thermal cup. Please try to use the water bottle filler station, and please recycle if you must use disposable items. None of this is a requirement, just suggested practice.
- **Punctuality** is expected. Additionally, please do not leave the class to take a phone call, or to make one. We will have a break around 2:30 each class.
- **Auditors and pass/fail are permitted.**

REQUIREMENTS

Thoughtful participation, **reflective of careful reading** of assigned materials, is expected of all students. Participation includes class attendance, discussion and listening so that dialogue takes place. Attendance and participation go into this grade. 20%

Outside of class events: Students are required to attend one lecture or film, and one field trip that takes place outside of our normal class time. There will be plenty of opportunities. A two page write-up, and sharing with the class, are required.

Theological School Community Garden participation: Mandatory two hours of work. For many of you, this will be easily exceeded through your volunteer participation. And you can recruit a friend.

Presentation in class on a related topic. Either during the semester, or at the end of the semester, each student will make a presentation. This presentation should be well organized and no more than 20 minutes in length. You will need to select a scholarly article that is relevant to your case study to assign to the class at least one week ahead of your scheduled date. An outline or copy of your presentation should be distributed to class members on the day of the presentation. Additional materials can be posted on Moodle. The goal should be to teach the rest of the class about an aspect of religion and food. You may also decide to use what you have learned to plan a social action, to educate a group, etc. 25% grade

Paper/Project. 45% grade. Please turn in through email or the moodle site; please do not give me a paper copy. Due Date TBD

Required Books:

- Jennifer R. Ayres, *Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2013)
- Benjamin E. Zeller, ed., *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014)
- Norman Wirzba, *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating* (New York: Cambridge Uni Press, 2011).
- Other readings are either electronically available or are posted on Moodle
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Relevant but not required books:

- E N. Anderson, *Everyone Eats: Understanding Food and Culture* (New York: New York University Press, 2005)
- Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman, eds., *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*, Food, Health, and the Environment (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2011)
- Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi, *Food Justice*, mit press paperback ed. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2013)
- R Marie Griffith, *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004)
- Hasia R. Diner, *Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001)
- David M. Freidenreich, *Foreigners and Their Food: Constructing Otherness in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011)
- Ken Albala and Trudy Eden, eds., *Food and Faith in Christian Culture*, Arts and Traditions of the Table (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011)

Sept 01 - Introduction to course

- Susan Bordo, "Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture," in *Food and Culture: A Reader*, eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik (New York: Routledge, 1997), 226-250.
- Massimo Montanari, "Eating Together" in *Food Is Culture* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), 93-98.
- Kathy Rudy, "Locavores, Feminism, and the Question of Meat," *The Journal of American Culture*, Volume 35, No. 1 (March 2012): 26-36.
- Marvalene H. Hughes, "Soul, Black Women, and Food," in *Food and Culture: A Reader*, eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik (New York: Routledge, 1997), 272-280.

Sept 8 – Good Food

- Jennifer Ayres, "Primer on the Global Food System: People, Places, Planet," "Primer on the Global Food System: Policies," "Making Room at the Table: A Theology and Ethics of Food," "Church-Supported Farming: Building Relationships and Supporting Sustainable Agriculture" and "Conclusion: Unearthing Beauty: Everyday Visionaries and Hope for the Food System" in *Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology*, 13-97, 157-164.

Sept 15 - Biblical Beginnings

- Norman Wirzba, "The 'Roots' of Eating: Our Life Together in Gardens," in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 35-70.
- Ellen F. Davis, "'And the Land I Will Remember': Reading the Bible through Agrarian Eyes," in *Wendell Berry and Religion: Heaven's Earthly Life*, eds. Joel James Shuman and L Roger Owens (Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2009), 115-130.
- Theodore Hiebert, "The Human Vocation: Origins and Transformations in Christian Traditions," in *Christianity and Ecology: Seeking the Well-Being of Earth and Humans*, eds. Dieter T. Hessel and Rosemary Radford Ruether, (Cambridge, Mass.: Distributed by Harvard University Press for the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, 2000), 135-154.

CLASS WILL MEET AT DAN'S HOUSE/FARM.. If the weather is nice, we will sit outside for class. Bring your bibles if you can, and make sure the articles are downloaded on your computer, as there will be no wifi. Please bring your lunch if you wish to eat there. You can meet his horses, rabbits, chickens.

Sept 22 - Food and African American Culture

- Derek S. Hicks, "An Unusual Feast: Gumbo and the Complex Brew of Black Religion," in *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*, 134-153.
- Leonard Norman Primiano, "And as We Dine, We Sing and Praise God: Father and Mother Divine's Theologies of Food," in *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*, 42-67.
- Priscilla McCutcheon, "Community Food Security 'For Us, By Us': The Nation of Islam and the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church" in *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*, eds. Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2011), 177-196.
- Psyche Williams Forson, "More Than Just the 'Big Piece of Chicken': The Power of Race, Class and Food in American Consciousness" in *Food and Culture: A Reader*. 3rd eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, 107-118.

Related events: Dinner with Derek Hicks, Sept 22; Derek Hicks Lecture on Sept. 23

Film: "A Place at the Table" on Sept. 24

Just Food conference at Princeton Theological Seminary on Sept 24-26

Sept 29 Judaism and Food (Festival of Sukkot)

- Samira K. Mehta, "'I Chose Judaism but Christmas Cookies Chose Me': Food, Identity, and Familial Religious Practice in Christian/Jewish Blended Families," in *Religion, Food and Eating in North America*, 154-172.
- Nora L. Rubel, "The Feast at the End of the Fast: The Evolution of an American Jewish Ritual," in *Religion, Food and Eating in North America*, 234-250.
- Additional readings from local Rabbi Deb Smith on Sukkot, Jewish Renewal, Kashrut Jewish Dietary Laws, and Fasting in the Jewish Faith
- A Teachers Guide and Students Worksheets from the Jewish Food Education Network (JFEN) of Hazan www.hazon.org/jfen
- Visit the hut on campus

Oct 6 - Hinduism, Buddhism and Food

This week will not be an exhaustive look at these two religious traditions and food, but at some uniting themes: food and ritual, and vegetarianism. I have also included readings by Vandana Shiva, an Indian food activist and scientist, about a variety of global issues that particularly affect agriculture in India. The film "Dirt" is being shown on campus this week, and she was part of making, and starring, in the film.

- Jeff Wilson, "Mindful Eating: American Buddhists and Worldly Benefits," in *Religion, Food and Eating in North America*, 214- 233.
- Stephanie Kaza, "Western Buddhist Motivations for Vegetarianism," *World Views Environment Culture Religion* 11/2005; 9(3): 385-411.
- Vandana Shiva, "Water Rights: The State, The Market, The Community" in *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution and Profit* (Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2002), 19-37.

- Vandana Shiva, "The Seed and the Earth," in *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* (Boston, MA: South End Press, 1997), 43-57.
- Jeaneane D. Fowler, "Food and Dress," in *Hinduism: Beliefs and Practices* (Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 1997), 65-68.
- Wendy Doniger, "Sacred Cows and Beefeaters," in *On Hinduism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 501-508.
- Cathryn Bailey, "We are What we Eat: Feminist Vegetarianism and the Reproduction of Racial Identity," *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, vol 22:2 (Jan 2009), 39-59.
- The Lexicon of Sustainability <http://lexiconofsustainability.com/>

Related events: Film: Dirt on October 6
 Film: Tapped

Oct 13 - Islam and Food

- Tayyib: The Foundation of Ethical Eating & Conscious Consumption <https://medium.com/ummah-wide/tayyib-the-foundation-of-ethical-eating-conscious-consumption-327117907493#.4gy25kppy>
- If It's not Organic, It's not Halal <http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/11/zabiha-organic-halal/>
- Ingrid Mattson, "Bismillah-Eating in the Name of God," <http://ingridmattson.org/article/bismillah-eating-in-the-name-of-god/>

Oct 20 - Break

Oct 27 - Farming

- David Grumett, "Dynamics of Christian Dietary Abstinence: Production, Consumption, and Salvation," in *Religion, Food and Eating in North America*, 10-12
- Chocolate and Slave Labor – "The Chocolate Industry Exposed: Child Labor, Trafficking and Fair Trade Mislabeling" <https://listengirlfriends.wordpress.com/2013/03/15/1990/>
- Mike Berners-Lee, *How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything* (Vancouver, BC: Greystone Books, 2011), 30-33, 37-41, 52-53, 70-75, 96-99, 106-107, 175-183. Please read the sections on bananas, oranges, tea/coffee, strawberries, porridge, potatoes, milk, eggs, tomatoes, cheese and the section more about food.
- Robert Gottlieb and Anupama Joshi, *Food Justice*, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2010), 28-35. Please read on dairy and hog farming.
- April Linton, *Fair Trade from the Ground Up: New Markets for Social Justice* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012), 3-13, 37-54. Please read the introduction, and if possible, the chapter about Guatemalan coffee.
- <http://equalexchange.coop/our-partners/interfaith-partners> This link takes you to the oldest and most extensive [fair trade](#) organization in the US that works with faith groups.
- Here is a link to customer stories: <http://equalexchange.coop/ee-and-you/customer-stories>
- Daniel Jaffee, *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), 1-35, 289-293.
- Jake Batsell, "Houses of Worship Sing Praises of Coffee for a Cause" in *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread*, ed. Michael Schut (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2009), 227-231.

Nov 3 - Fasts

- Jennifer Ayers, “Church-Supported Farming: Building Relationships and Supporting Sustainable Agriculture” and “Growing Food: From Food Insecurity to Food Sovereignty” in *Good Food: A Grounded Practical Theology of Food*, 79-116.
- Norman Wirzba, “Considering Eating Meat” in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, 130-137
- Michael Pollan, “The Ethics of Eating Animals” in *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 304-333.
- Eric Schlosser, “The Chain Never Stops” in *Food and Culture: A Reader*. 3rd eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, 485-495.
- Ted Genoways, “The Spam Factory’s Dirty Secret” Mother Jones July/August 2011 <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2011/06/hormel-spam-pig-brains-disease>
- Julie Guthman, “If They Only Knew”: The Unbearable Whiteness of Alternative Food” in *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*, eds. Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2011), 263-282.
- Deborah Barndt, “On the Move for Food: Three Women Behind the Tomato’s Journey” in *Food and Culture: A Reader*. 3rd eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, 472-484.

Nov 10 – Famine

- Visiting Interfaith Food Pantry. You may want to bring food items to donate, but are not expected to. Here is a list of what they need most. <http://mcifp.org/donate/donate-food/>
- A.L.I.C.E. Report <http://www.unitedwaynnj.org/ourwork/alice.php>
- Visiting Early Street Community garden. <http://www.growitgreenmorristown.org/#!gardenrebuild/ckgm>
- Janet Poppendieck, “Want Amid Plenty: From Hunger to Inequality” in *Food and Culture: A Reader*. 3rd eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, 563-571.
- Robert Albritton, “Between Obesity and Hunger: The Capitalist Food Industry” in *Food and Culture: A Reader*. 3rd eds. Carole Counihan and Penny Van Esterik, 342-352.
- Alfonzo Morales, “Growing Food and Justice: Dismantling Racism through Sustainable Food Systems” in *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability*, eds. Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2011), 149-176.

Nov 17 – Feasts Guest Lecturer: Heather Elkins on Love Feasts

- Norman Wirzba, “Feasting and Fasting” and “Eucharistic able Manners: Eating toward Communion,” in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, 137-143, 144-178.
- Norman Wirzba, "Food for Theologians." *Interpretation* 67, no. 4 (October 2013): 374-382
- “Office Hours with Norman Wirzba on a Theology of Eating” Duke University <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvLpqfCidLU>

November 24 – class not meeting due to AAR/SBL

- Please listen to this panel with Norman Wirzba, Ellen Davis and Wendell Berry. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB4asSC7Uzo>

Dec 1

- Norman Wirzba, “Thinking Theologically About Food” and “Life Through Death: Sacrificial Eating,” in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, 1-34, 110-143.

Five 12 minute Presentations in second half of class

Dec 8 Farming and Feasting

- Norman Wirzba, "Saying Grace," and "Eating in Heaven? Consummating Communion," in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, 179-210, 211-234.

We will be cooking together at Madison UMC...next to Drew. Please be thinking about what you will bring. We will at least make a salad, tomato pasta sauce, and roasted beets and winter squash together (open to proposals for more to make together). Please also be thinking about what you might change as a result of taking this class--how will you carry it forward?