**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 3220/ANTH 3215**

**WINTER 2024**

**WHET YOUR APPETITE: EHTNOGRAPHIES OF FOOD**

**Instructor:** Dr. Miriam Hird-Younger

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**Method of Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:**

Anthropologists and sociologists love studying the meaning, significance, and social impacts of everyday lived experiences. What could be more everyday than food? Far from mundane, food is one of our basic needs, food is an economic livelihood, and food is symbolic in our families and religions. Our social relations and systems, like gender, class, and race, are reproduced, in part, through food production and consumption. In this course, students will use food as a window to study our social world, its patterns, meanings, and ways of organizing. Students will engage with ethnographies of specific contexts and themes, such as ethics, gender, and sovereignty. Students will also be encouraged to take a sensorial perspective, which will include experiential learning components (beyond just eating!). The course content will draw on ethnographic texts, but also podcasts, videos, and other materials. This course is meant to ‘whet your appetite’ about the significance of what and how we eat.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

**We will read significant portions of the following books:**

1. Counihan, C. (Ed.). (2019). *Food and culture a reader* (Fourth edition.). Routledge.
2. Mares, T. M. (2019). *Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont* (1st ed.). University of California Press.

Copies of these books are available at the Carleton Bookstore and also digital versions are available through the library and linked on each week’s modules on Brightspace.

Additional readings and course materials (e.g., podcasts) are [linked below](#_5.Course_Calendar:_List) and on Brightspace under each weekly module.

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Participation: 20%

Weekly response: 10%

Experiential learning activity: 20%

Take home mid-term assignment: 20%

Final essay: 30%