Overview
This course is an examination of the intersection of Food, Health, and Society. This will cover a broad range of topics in the social science research, many of which do not fit neatly in a single area and often overlap. We will draw heavily from many other disciplines and sources. In addition to learning about the research in these varied areas, my main purpose in teaching this class is to help you find something that inspires you and ignites your interest.

The topics we will cover a wide range of topics from the micro to the macro-level. These will include issues of individual food choices, the health effects of food, genetically modified organisms, the ways in which our food consumption choices are gendered and given meaning, environmental and social effects of food systems, food culture, food insecurity, obesity, food deserts, and many others. The most important thing that you can do is be engaged with the material and participate fully in class.

Course Texts:
I will make all of the readings for the course available on CourseDen. We will use videos and readings in class, so it is very important that you attend every single class in order to have access to all of the material and participate in the discussions.

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, the student should be able to accurately and effectively explain in writing:

- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about the topics or perspectives identified in class and evaluate the concepts from multiple perspectives.
- Identify and accurately explain at least three issues or problems that are important in the interaction of food, society and health.
- Engage in and reflect upon two experiential learning exercises that allow you to critically evaluate your own food habits.
• Participate in, reflect upon, and present to the class, a service learning activity that you engage in during the semester related to the course.
• Be able to explain how the interaction of society, food, and health affects you personally and present your position on these issues to peers based on relevant research.

Course Evaluation
Your grade will be assessed using the following percentages:

90-100% = A
80-89.9% = B
70-79.9% = C
60-69.9% = D

Grading Structure (total possible percentage points for the course)
Your grade in this course will come from the following five areas. Make sure to look in the appropriate section area whether you are a graduate or an undergraduate student. Note that I DO NOT round your final grade.

Undergraduate (SOCI 4999)
1. Final Paper 25%
2. Weekly Quizzes (I’ll count your top 10 scores) 30%
3. Service Learning Project 10%
4. Experiential Learning Projects (2; 15% each) 30%
5. Attendance 5%

Graduate (SOCI 6182)
1. Final Paper 25%
2. Weekly Reflection and Analysis Papers (I’ll count your top 10 scores) 30%
3. Service Learning Project 10%
4. Experiential Learning Projects (2; 15% each) 30%
5. Facilitation 5%

1. Final Paper (25%)
You will have a final paper due on Friday, November 18th by 5:00 P.M., submitted to the CourseDen Dropbox. I will only accept documents in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx extensions). This paper will be your opportunity to learn more about a specific topic related to the course and demonstrate your mastery of the related literature on this topic. Specific requirements for undergraduate and graduate students will be distributed later in the semester.

2. Quizzes OR Weekly Reflection & Analysis Papers (3% each)
This course is based heavily around the expectation that each student will arrive to class prepared for the week by having read the material for the week. To ensure this, the undergraduates will take a quiz at the beginning of the class (if you are late you won’t be able to take it and there are not make up quizzes) and for the graduate students this will
be assessed through weekly papers. I will count your top 10 quizzes/papers. Each week there will be a paper due that is both a reflection of the material from the preceding week and an analysis of the reading material for the current week. I will give you a question (or questions) to prompt you and direct your responses each week. Each paper should be 300-500 words. Spelling, grammar, and your writing in general absolutely affect the quality of your response (and therefore your grade) so make sure to revise and edit your paper thoroughly.

3. Service Learning Project (10%)
You will also do a service learning project which requires you to volunteer several hours to a project of your choice. You will then need to write a short paper reflecting on how your experience augmented your learning in the course and you will give a short presentation to the class about your experience on 12/1. Beginning in the second week I will facilitate you forming groups based roughly around your interests. You are welcome to participate in the project either as a group or individually. I will need to approve all projects.

4. Experiential Learning Projects (2 projects worth 15% each)
This is a project designed to critically evaluate your own experience with food, identify barriers to changing your food patterns, and experience the social structures that shape our food choices firsthand. You will be asked to change your food habits for a short time and then submit a short paper discusses your experience analytically. I will distribute instructions for each at the appropriate time in the semester.

5. Attendance OR Facilitation (5%)
As engagement in this class is very important you are expected to attend and participate in every class. For the undergraduates this will be assessed through your attendance each class and for the graduate students this will be assessed through you facilitating a short section of one of the discussions during select lectures. Any absence must be discussed used me beforehand.

Technological Requirements

CourseDen will be used extensively for this course. Your readings and supplemental materials will all be uploaded to CourseDen. It is your responsibility to secure reliable access to a computer with an internet connection so that you are able to utilize CourseDen. If you have problems with the CourseDen system you should contact the Distance Learning center or ITS (855-933-8946). Make sure you plan ahead, because unless I am explicitly notified by the Distance Learning Center that CourseDen has experienced an outage, there will be no extensions given on assignments if you were not able to get CourseDen to function correctly. Internet problems are not acceptable excuses for turning your work in late.
**Attendance**
Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected. You are also expected to be in the class on time for the entire duration of the class. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early I expect you to let me know beforehand, to sit by the door, and to be as quiet as possible in order to avoid disturbing others. You are responsible for all content disseminated in class, including discussions, films, lectures, handouts, and in-class assignments. If you must miss a class, it is up to you to obtain any notes or materials from your classmates.

**Email Policy**
The best way to contact me is through my CourseDen email. I will make every effort to respond with you within 24 hours, during normal business hours (M-F, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M). However, do not expect to email me with a question the night before an exam or a paper is due and have a response before the deadline. I use the CourseDen system for the course so that I am better able to manage my courses, so I will only respond to emails sent through CourseDen. Papers sent as an email attachment to any email address will not be accepted. Email is considered official correspondence at UWG and, as such, must be written in a professional manner. You are expected to include a subject line, a proper salutation and valediction, and include proper punctuation. I will not respond to emails that do not follow this format.

**Office Hours**
My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you plan to come see me, I strongly suggest that you email me to make an appointment during this time to ensure that I am available when you come to my office. Once we schedule a time to meet make sure not to miss your appointment.

**UWG Common Course Syllabi Link**
Students are responsible for reviewing the information provided through the following link each semester:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

**Policy on Student Responsibilities and Classroom Conduct**
1. Students are responsible for attending all classes and arriving to class on time, taking notes, and obtaining other materials provided by the instructor, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the instructor.

2. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.

3. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades. Grades are continually posted and updated on CourseDen. Any errors need to be brought to the instructor’s attention within two weeks of being posted.
4. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate missing multiple classes due to events such as chronic illnesses, travel related to team sports, or other university activities. The instructor will determine the minimal attendance and participation required in order to meet course responsibilities.

5. Behaviors that disrupt other students’ learning are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class; cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class).

6. Students are expected to respect others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Personal attacks or harassing behavior is NOT acceptable. Students are expected to be able to engage the topics and material for the course whether they agree with the author or not.

**Academic Integrity**
All students are expected to act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through thru their efforts. In this course, it is considered dishonest to utilize any helps when taking exams, plagiarizing, and fabricating information. This list is not inclusive. Remember that it is you responsibility to ensure that you are not plagiarizing from another student or other author. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive a zero for the work, and potentially the course depending on the severity of the incident, and they will be reported to the University’s Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanctions. It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand this policy, which is available online at [http://www.westga.edu/soccrim/index_4657.php](http://www.westga.edu/soccrim/index_4657.php).

**Accommodation Statement**
Students who seek accommodations related to documented disabilities should first contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Student Development Center (123 Row Hall, Phone: 678-839-6428). The coordinators in Disability Services will communicate with me to make accommodations based on your needs.

**Tentative Schedule**
The schedule is available on CourseDen and is tentative and subject to change at any time. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any changes that may be necessary.