STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK

MASTER SYLLABUS

SOCI 308– SOCIOLOGY OF FOOD

Created by: Christina Leshko
Updated by: Christina Leshko

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIOLOGY
SPRING 2020
A. **TITLE:** Sociology of Food

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** SOCI 308

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the significant relationships between people, culture, and food across societies. From the family dinner table to debates surrounding environmental impacts, the production, distribution, and consumption of food reflects social institutions, agricultural systems, politics, and identity. The emergence of food and eating as a sociological subtopic provides a platform for investigating areas such as: social problems, inequality and stratification, power, media, family, labor and work, health, nutrition and safety, ecology, and globalization.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES** ENGL101

**CO-REQUISITES:** None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>ISLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Examine the historical significance of subsistence in shaping the human species, cultures, and societies.</td>
<td>2 [CA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify core components of food production as a social institution.</td>
<td>2 [CA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Explore the cultural significance of food in relation to social identifiers such as nationality, ethnicity, class, and gender.</td>
<td>4 [IK]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Compare and contrast social constructions of food from scientific, health, nutrition, and safety perspectives.</td>
<td>2 [IA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Assess the role of food in media as a form of cultural expression.</td>
<td>2 [CA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Discuss social movements focused on the production, distribution, and consumption of food.</td>
<td>2 [CA]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:**

*Yes* __X____  *No_________

- Research
K. **TEXTS:**


Additional materials provided by instructor.

L. **REFERENCES:**


M. **EQUIPMENT:** Blackboard Learning Management System

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

Assignments
Discussion Boards
Quizzes
Group Project
Final Project

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. **Overview of Food & Social Development**

A. Hunter-Gatherer Societies
B. Horticultural Societies
C. Pastoral Societies
D. Agrarian Societies
II. Food Production
   A. Origins of the Modern Food System
   B. Organic Farming
   C. Sustainability
   D. Labor and Work
      i. Unions
      ii. Farmer Workers’ Rights Movement

III. Food Distribution
   A. Import-export Practices
   B. Labels and Packaging
   C. Urban Food Deserts
   D. Class Inequality

IV. Food Consumption
   A. Health
      i. Nutrition and Dietetics
      ii. Obesity Epidemic
   B. Food Safety and Risk
   C. Social Movements
      i. Fair Trade Movement
      ii. Veganism
      iii. Slow Food Movement
      iv. Farm-to-Table Movement

V. Cultural Significance & Identity
   A. Family
   B. Media
   C. Religion
   D. Ethnicity
   E. Nationality
   G. Gender

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: N/A