CSOC 620 RELIGIONS AND FOOD: Feasts, Fasts, Famine and Farming
Drew Theological School
Tuesday 1:15-3:45, Fall 2015

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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:
- Other readings are either electronically available or are posted on Moodle

Relevant but not required books:

**Sept 01 - Introduction to course**


**Sept 8 – Good Food**


**Sept 15 - Biblical Beginnings**

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

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)
- 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.
- 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  
- If It’s not Organic, It’s not 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
- Chocolate and Slave Labor – “The Chocolate Industry Exposed: Child Labor, Trafficking and Fair Trade Mislabeling”  
https://listengirlfriends.wordpress.com/2013/03/15/1990/
- 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

Nov 3 - Fasts
• Norman Wirzba, “Considering Eating Meat” in Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating, 130-137

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/
• Visiting Early Street Community garden. http://www.growitgreenmorristown.org/#iardenrebuild/ckgm

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

Five 12 minute Presentations in second half of class

Dec 8 Farming and Feasting

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?