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Anthropology of Food Week 6

Midterm Exam

and after the exam . . .

Video: *We Feed the World*

"Recipes and Dishes"

The Midterm Exam is Tuesday, 3 October 2017.

Live Chat, for last-minute questions, is Monday 7:00-8:00 p.m. Other Information on the Midterm Exam is available at <https://av16.moodle.umn.edu/mod/chat/view.php?id=818330>.



[Live Chat -- Review for Midterm Exam, Monday, 3 October 2017, from 7:00 - 8:00 CDT](#)

Don't forget . . . that you can use the information in the class **Midterm wiki as study questions for the Midterm**. Your questions will be annotated; be sure to read my comments and suggestions about the questions. I will have added a couple of questions. The Midterm will be **four essay questions**, selected from a pool generated from those included in the wiki:



[Wiki: Midterm Exam Study Questions](#)

The final pool of questions generally contains 12-16 questions, all taken from the annotated wiki list of questions, including at least one current affairs question that I will add. [The final pool of questions will not include more than one question on the same (or essentially similar question), which is

why it usually ends up with 12-16 questions).]



MIDTERM EXAM -- Timed. Tuesday, 3 October 2017 (the timing will start after you read the introduction, when you say 'go')

After the Midterm Exam—and for much of **the remainder of the term**—we’ll be spending most of the time, up until we begin your **class presentations**, examining **“How People Get Their Food in Industrial Societies”** and what that means to various groups of people around the world. We will be exploring the social, corporeal, sacred, psychological, political, economic, and cultural aspects of food *via* the texts and videos.

And hopefully, also as noted last week, in the remainder of the term you will be **applying your analytical anthropological skills** that you have been developing and honing in the first five weeks of the course. We will be shifting emphasis to video materials, and then to class Presentations—visiting many parts of the globe in the process—so you will have lots of opportunities to practice your skills.

Speaking of skills . . . this week, after you are finished with your Midterm Exam, take the two short minute-and-a-half **tests of your observational skills** before you continue your intensive look at the wide variety of Anthropology of Food video materials. You should take those short tests this week, but wait until after you have finished the Midterm Exam (you will have enough to do before the Exam).



After the Exam Take the Two (Very Short) Selective Attention Tests in Preparation for Watching Remaining Videos [see below]

This week Thursday we have a look at **“How People Get Their Food in Industrial Societies.”** The film this week focuses on

modern-day food production, including its international dimensions. *We Feed the World* is an award winning Austrian film [2009 DVD release] said in Austria to be “the most successful documentary ever,” that is, until *Food, Inc.* came out and quickly became the bestselling independent documentary of all time (see Week 12). For their real impact, both *We Feed the World* and *Our Daily Bread* (the Extra Credit film) should be watched on a large screen. We’ll have a look at *We Feed the World* beginning Tuesday and finishing up on Thursday.

If you are into films, *Our Daily Bread* has been compared to Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*. If you are not into films, *Our Daily Bread* has *still* been compared to Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Don’t be put off by the fact that *Our Daily Bread* has almost no dialogue. That is part of the design of the film. *Our Daily Bread* is almost all images and natural sounds. The world-class filmmaker wants you to think about your food and how it is produced as you watch the film. *We Feed the World*, another Austrian film (the required film that we will see this week), has narration and presents the subject matter more conventionally. Details of the on-site locations in *Our Daily Bread* are in the class viewing guide (and are [listed on Wikipedia](#), should you be interested in where the footage was shot—but it was the original intent of the filmmakers Wolfgang Widerhofer and Nikolaus Geyrhalter not to focus on the identity of the companies and locations, but have the natural sounds and images categorically represent the sources of today’s *Our Daily Bread*).



Mark Bittman in a *New York Times* “Sunday Review” article opined:

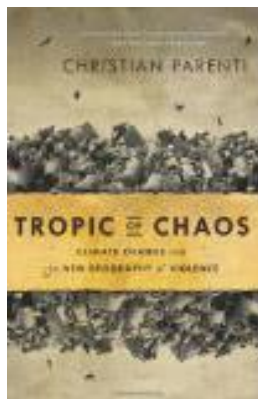
How to Feed the World

-- Mark Bittman, *New York Times* (15 October 2013, p. 9)

Bittman (a food journalist, author, food entrepreneur, and former contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, well-known for his works *How to Cook Everything*, and *The Best Recipes in the World*, and a half-dozen other works) has this to say about today’s food production:

“The world has long produced enough calories, around 2,700 per day per human, more than enough to meet the United Nations projection of a population of nine billion in 2050, up from the current seven billion. . . . According to the ETC Group, a research and advocacy organization based in Ottawa, **the industrial food chain uses 70 percent of agricultural resources to provide 30 percent of the world’s food, whereas what ETC calls “the peasant food web” produces the remaining 70 percent using only 30 percent of the resources.**”

Feeding the world’s growing population, and world hunger, is on lots of people’s minds these days. A friend’s e-mail not so long ago included a few timely observations . . .



“Just finished *Tropic of Chaos* by Christian Parenti [Parenti, Christian. *Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence*. NY: Nation Books, 2011]. It is a powerful and quite frightening book. He looks closely at and describes several places in the world where climate change is converging with poverty and violence to provide a preview of where the world is heading if we don't find a way very quickly to reduce carbon emissions. “

“The places he reports on - Somalia / Uganda, India / Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico - are places where ‘normal’ was marginal, and where the change in climate is already forcing people past a tipping point in one way or another, resulting in turmoil and chaos.”

“In addition to providing a glimpse of the violence the future holds as more people haven't enough to eat, it also yanked me—an overly comfortable American—into an awareness of the fragile agricultural systems on which many people on the planet depend.”

“It is a profoundly distressing book. Everyone reading this email has played, and is playing, a role in pushing our ecosphere out of a steady state condition. Many of us, as Charlie regularly points out, are ‘getting out just in time.’ But we have sure messed things up big time for those coming after.”

Even General Mills and other major food producers voiced similar concerns: “In a letter to U.S. and global leaders, the food companies’ CEOs say that if action isn’t taken now, ‘we risk not only today’s livelihoods, but those of future generations’ The companies include Nestle USA, Unilever, Kellogg, Stonyfield Farm, Danone Dairy North America, Ben & Jerry’s (which is owned by Unilever), Clif Bar, Mars Inc. and New Belgium Brewing Company. The[ir] letter marks the first time the food industry has come together to address climate change.” [[General Mills and other food producers speak out on climate change -- StarTribune \(01 October 2015\)](#)].

We’ll have another, closer, look at **world hunger and the future of food** towards the end of the semester.

Your **Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 6 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

This week the Assignments and Activities include . . .



[Reading Assignments for Week 6](#)



After the Exam Take the Two (Very Short) [Selective](#)

Attention Tests in Preparation for Watching Remaining Videos

Selective Attention Test

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo>



The Monkey Business Illusion

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK_ZfY



Part 2: Project Promissory Abstract and Working Bibliography (Due by the end of Week 6—Saturday, 7 October 2017))



[Forum: "Yes, We Have No Bananas"](#) (Due by the end of Week 6—
[Saturday, 7 October 2017](#))



[Forum: And Maybe We Have No Coffee Either](#) (Due by the end of
[Week 6—Saturday, 7 October 2017](#))

And for fun, **a trivia question this week . . .**

**What was the average consumption of potatoes per person in Ireland
before the great potato famine of 1845?**



Famine Memorial, Dublin, Ireland

[Answer](#)

As usual, if you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the **Moodle** “QUICKMAIL”, “Messenger” or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop in before or after class across the hall in Cina 215.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/>