Anthropology of Food Week 3

"Settled Ingredients: Domestic Food Production"

Diet and Human Evolution: Archaeology / Prehistory
Hunter-Gathering or Foraging, and the Emergence of Food Production

Video Explorations:
Did Cooking Make Us Human? (ca. 52 min.)

Human Nutrient Needs

Eating Porcupine

Units of Analysis

Fake News / Media Bias

Discussion This Week:
Food and Climate Chang

REM: Your Class Project

Assignments and Events

Readings

For Fun Food Trivia
This week . . .
we begin our Video Explorations with

Did Cooking Make Us Human?
(ca. 52 min.)

Available at: Films on Demand Streaming Videos (Duluth campus)
course viewing guide

And what are
our Human Nutrient Needs?
Have a look at these slides using the "slide show" mode:

(.pptx)
[click here]
Trying the Hadza hunter-gatherer berry and porcupine diet --
BBCNews 23 July 2017

The first porcupine I ever ate was with some of the last of the very traditional hunters and gatherers of the Leech Lake Reservation. Paul Buffalo (born first in 1898/9 and again on White Oak Point on the 4th of July in 1900) and I—in the mid-1960s—shared a porcupine, boiled whole, with his brother “Joe Sky” Nason in a small log cabin in the woods west of Deer River. “Joe Sky” killed it with a wooden club explaining that he just had a hankerin’ for some old time food—very much like we will see this week in the BBC video Did Cooking Make us Human? Paul Buffalo’s family lived following the traditional seasonal food cycle until WWI, about 1915.
I had the right-front leg and shoulder of the porcupine, which, when I first saw it, was sticking up out of the pan about four inches, hairy paw attached. The cooked porcupine had a really strong flavor, for my tastes, but the old-time lumberjacks who chewed snuff, chewing tobacco, and plug tobacco most of their lives loved porcupine—because it was a food that they could still taste after having ruined their taste buds with a life of chewing snus and plug tobacco (sometimes at the same time). In traditional times Anishinabe peoples in northern Minnesota did not generally “hunt” (actually more like collect) porcupine. No, they generally left porcupines alone because porcupine were very easy to catch—one could do it with just a stick—and porcupine was thus a sort of “survival” food in case they didn’t get other meats (which wasn’t very often). In the classical anthropology film The Hunters the small Khoisan* hunting party of four, of a group which had been without meat in their camp for a month, eventually “collected” two porcupine after coming home empty-handed two or three times.

*[aka the Kalahari Bushmen, !Kung, San, and other names]

**Hunter-gatherers as models in public health**
-- OBESITYreviews (02 December 2018)

**Trying the Hadza hunter-gatherer berry and porcupine diet**
-- BBCNews (27 July 2017)

**'Hadza': the last hunter-gatherer tribe in Tanzania – in pictures**
-- The Guardian (22 October 2018)

During Week 3 of Anthropology of Food we're traveling back into prehistoric times. You will see some of these materials also in Chapter Two of Eating Culture, “Settled Ingredients: Domestic Food Production,” and in Chapter Four, “Cooks and Kitchens.”

If you find some of the names of the prehistoric apes and early
humans (and their home locations) confusing, don't let that bother you. Not so long ago a whole major species was added to the list: *Homo naledi*. The class materials this week will walk you through these foreign-sounding topics, *sans Homo naledi*, and provide a little more illustration to the points that the text makes. The video *Did Cooking Make Us Human?* will also review some of the main prehistoric players in the ancient food scene.

And remember, the exams are open-book tests—so bear in mind that you do not have to memorize these names and facts. So familiarize yourself with the materials, but don't spend too much time trying to commit the details to memory. (If you haven't read the materials about the Anth of Food exams yet, it might be a good idea to do that before too long. You can find that information at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afexams_midterm.html>.)

For this week—for the entire term, for that matter—focus on the ideas and main concepts and differing points of view. In the video *Did the Cooking Make us Human?* for example, pay attention to what Richard Wrangham’s ideas are, and how he argues in support of them.

Remember that archaeology is one of the four main branches of American Anthropology (from Weeks 1 and 2).
Units of Analysis

It is really important that you focus on your unit(s) of analysis when you are doing your class project. For a discussion and lots of examples, have a look at the class slides on the units of analysis commonly used in Anthropology.

as mentioned in the “Orientation”
units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- the world
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”

Have a look at these slides using the "slide show" mode:

(.pptx)

[click here]
Fake News / Media Bias

When discussing almost anything these days it is important to be aware of fake news and media bias. The Media Bias Chart is a start to sort out the B.S. from information that might actually be useful.

(large original chart)

[click here for more information]

Discussion This Week:
Food and Climate Change
REM:

Your Class Project

Focus on your Class Project.

Pick out 1-3 things that you, personally, are interested in, that are related to the class, that you think would make a good Class Project. REM: This Project is something with which you should be able to have fun.

If you haven’t yet done so, have a quick look at the information for your class project, which you can find at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/trofios/anthfood/afproject.html#title>.

Your class Project is your Term Paper, plus a short “work-in-progress” Presentation.

Details of Presentation         Details of Term Paper

Demosthenes Practising Oratory (1870)                     Charles Dickens (1842)

Your Informal Project Statement, or Project Proposal, is due by the end of next week, Friday, 7 February 2020. Basically that’s a short informal summary personal statement of what you are interested in doing, how you think you might go about it, and what resources you are
thinking about using. It can be as simple as the following:

“For my project I’m thinking about X, or Y, and these are the items I’m thinking about using [add short list]. This is why I’m interested in this/these project(s) [add your reason(s)]. . . .

It is an informal statement. A more formal statement will come later on (in Week 6, Friday, 21 February 2020).

Have a look at . . .

Assignments and Events

. . . this week as they are listed on your Calendar. They are also listed on the Syllabus section of your folder, if you prefer to have them in another form (see below).

This Week’s ”Calendar"

REM: Links on screenshots are not “hot” (active)
### Anthropology of Food, Week 3, p. 10

The links to the on-line movies are on your Canvas calendar.

#### The “Syllabus” version is found here:

REM: Links on screenshots are not “hot” (active)
For Fun Food Trivia . . .

The human brain encodes what three factors in processing nouns?
If you have any questions right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the Course “Chat”, or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop by Cina 215 if you’re in the neighborhood [map].

Best Regards,

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