Anthropology of Food Week 5

"Cooks and Kitchens"

Food and Religion:

The Pig Commandments

and

Watch on-line: Food for Body and Soul (29 min.)

Hunting-Gathering or Foraging, and the Emergence of Food Production

Desert People

and Midterm Preparations

Have you ever thought about competitive eating?

The class Competitive Eating WebPage is on-line at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afcompetitiveeating.html#title>
Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas ate 183 chicken wings in 12 minutes in 2011 to gain National Title

_The Daily Mail (06 September 2011)_

“Thomas had won 1st place in the National Buffalo Wing Festival US chicken wing eating championship five-years straight from 2007-2011. On September 4, 2011, she attained the United States Chicken Wing Eating Championship in Buffalo, New York by eating 183 chicken wings in 12 minutes. On September 2, 2012 Joey [“Jaws”] Chestnut consumed 191 wings (7.61 pounds) in 12 minutes to take competitive-eating trophy from the five-year champion Sonya Thomas.”

—Wikipedia

_The Buffalo News (12 September 2012)_


Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas HomePage

Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas Wikipedia Page

Competetitive Eating
is a Major League Sport . . .
Sometimes more interesting than other championship major league events, including the Super Bowl

My niece, Buffy Gorrilla, published a good article, on competitive eating in Australia:

Getting a taste for competitive eating — Buffy Gorrilla
(This post originally appeared on The Citizen Thursday 18 August 2016)

World Competitive Eating Records include . . .

EAT YOUR HEART OUT:
WORLD COMPETITIVE EATING RECORDS

46 mince pies (10 min)
47 doz oysters (6 min)
73.5 hot dogs (20 min)
384 gyozas (2 min)
38 Mars bars (5 min)
15 pints of ice cream (6 min)
121 twinkies (4 min)
1.8kg of tiramisu (6 min)
44 lobsters (22 min)
3.9kg of kimchi (6 min)
182 strips of bacon (3 min)
1.65 pierogi (6 min)
1.2kg of dill pickles (6 min)
42 peanut butter sandwiches (25 min)
62 pulled pork sliders (50 min)
141 hard boiled eggs (6 min)

Source: Gorrilla 2016
Food and Religion

This week food and family and religion come together head-to-head in *The Pig Commandments* where we’ll see how in traditional Malaysian Chinese culture Buddhist food beliefs are literally tearing families apart.

On the one hand **religion**—in this case Chinese Buddhism—**unites families**, and on the other it **tears them apart**.

This week you should **watch on-line** the short (29 min.) film *Food for Body and Spirit*—the second film of a classic four-part series, *A Taste of China*—the film shows how in Chinese culture religion and food has united families for over a thousand years. *Food for Body and Spirit* visits a sacred Taoist retreat, high on Blue City Mountain in Szechuan Province, China.

*Food for Body and Spirit* (29 min.)

*Food for Body and Spirit Viewing Guide*

This is a “controlled comparison” involving —

**Chinese : Buddhism : Food in China and Malaysia**

In *Food for Body and Spirit* (on-line) we have a look at a Chinese Taoist temple and Buddhist Slow Food and [Locavorism](#) which has a thousand year history . . . and we see how food holds a part of Chinese culture **together** . . .
In *The Pig Commandments* we see how food *tears apart* a major segment of Chinese culture in Malaysia.

This week we’re also going to have a look at **how people get their food in nonindustrial societies**, featuring (1) the classic film *The Desert People*, (2) Ch. 2 of *Eating Cultures*, “Hunter-Gathering or Foraging,” and (3) the chapters from Michael Pollan’s *Omnivore's Dilemma on foraging* (Chs. 15-17).

Before you view the film *The Desert People*, have a look at the viewing guide. On the viewing guide focus on the “Terms / Concepts” and “Notes” sections. Peruse the other information on the film’s viewing guide as you see fit.

**The Midterm Exam is coming up**—next week. Use the annotated questions from the Wiki assignment of last week as study questions. Other Information on the Midterm Exam is available at <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afexams_midterm.html>.

REM **Next Week Midterm Exam**

is scheduled for Week 6 Day 11, Tuesday, 3 October 2017, in Cina 214

Midterm Exam General Information
After the exam (next week) we’ll spend most of the rest of the semester (up until it is time for you to present the results of your Research Project) examining how people get their food in nonindustrial and industrial cultures, and in exploring the social, corporeal, sacred, psychological, political, economic, and cultural aspects of food—that’s the holistic anthropology approach (you remember that from Week 1). In short, after the Midterm Exam, “Food and Culture” will be our focus up until your Student Presentations begin.

And, hopefully, in the last part of the term you will be applying your analytical anthropological skills that you have been developing and honing in the first four weeks of the course.

Your Assignments and Activities listings are available in the Week 5 Block of your Moodle folder.

This week the Assignments and Activities include . . .

- **Food for Body and Spirit** (29 min.) Kaltura Video Resource
  - *Food for Body and Spirit* Viewing Guide

- **Reading Assignments for Week 5**

- **Wiki: Your question for the Midterm Exam** (Your question was due last Saturday, 23 September 2017)
  - These will be annotated shortly, to serve as a list of study questions for the Midterm Exam

- **Part 1: Informal Project Proposal** (Your Proposal was due last Saturday, 23 September 2017)

- **Forum: Anthropophagy** (Due by end of Week 5—Saturday, 11 February 2017)
And for fun, **a trivia question this week . . .**

**How many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?**

[Image: Sap buckets collecting sap]

**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](mailto: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/]