Anthropology of Food Week 5

"Cooks and Kitchens"

Food and Religion

and Midterm Preparations

Video Exploration:
*The Meaning of Food: “Food & Culture”*
*The Pig Commandments*

and

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

Competetitive Eating is a Major League Sport . . .

(Sometimes more interesting than other championship major league events, including the Super Bowl)
How many Buffalo Wings can you eat in 12 minutes?

Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas ate 183 chicken wings in 12 minutes in 2011 to gain National Title

*The Daily Mail (06 September 2011)*


*The Buffalo News (12 September 2012)*
Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas holds **39 World Competitive Eating Records**.

Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas HomePage

Sonya “The Black Widow” Thomas Wikipedia Page

My niece, Buffy Gorrilla, published a good article, on competitive eating in Australia, pointing out world Competitive Eating records:

**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**

![Image of teeth with various food items]

Source: Gorrilla 2016

The class Competitive Eating WebPage is on-line at

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afcompetitiveeating.html#title>
This week, on Tuesday, we continue to have a look at cultural aspects of food. We’ll have a look at those in the readings and in Marcus Samuelsson’s video . . .

*The Meaning of Food: “Food & Culture”*

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 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.

The Midterm Exam is coming up—next week. Use the annotated questions from the 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](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, 15 February 2018, in Cina 214

[Midterm Exam General Information](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afexams_midterm.html)

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.
Assignments and Events

... this week are listed on your (1) "Calendar", your (2) “Syllabus”, and in the (3) “Assignments” section of your canvas folder.

REM: Your question for the Midterm was due Saturday, 3 February 2018. If you have not yet submitted your question(s), please do that right now.

These will be annotated shortly, to serve as a list of study questions for the Midterm Exam

Last Week’s calendar
(1) This Week’s ”Calendar”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Feb 4, 2018</td>
<td>AF It's Buffalo Wings Time . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AF For Fun Food Trivia: How many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 5, 2018</td>
<td>AF Wk 5 Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AF For Extra Credit: View The Grind and Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 6, 2018</td>
<td>AF Day 8 Agenda: Video: Food &amp; Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 8, 2018</td>
<td>AF Day 9 Agenda: Video: The Pig Commandments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>AF View On-line Video: Food for Body and Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 9, 2018</td>
<td>AF Discussion: Anthropophagy (Wk 5) due by 11:59pm</td>
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(2) This Week’s “Syllabus”

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(3) “Assignments”
And for fun, a *trivia question this week* . . .

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

**Answer**
If you have any **questions** right now, please do not hesitate to post them on the [canvas](http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/) Course “Chat”, or e-mail [troufs@umn.edu](mailto:troufs@umn.edu), or stop in before or after class across the hall in Cina 215 [map].

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

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