

York University
**Faculty of Health
Kinesiology and Health Science**

Course: AS/KINE 4490. 03 **Philosophical Issues in Kinesiology and Health Science**

Term: Fall 2008

Course Instructor

Gamal Abdel-Shehid
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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30 or by appointment

Time and Location

Tuesday 1:00 – 2:20 Stong College 216
Thursday 1:00 – 2:20 Stong College 303

Expanded Course Description

This course is intended to give students a sense of how to understand philosophical issues in contemporary society as it relates to kinesiology and health. Specifically, the course will offer students an introduction to the cultural politics of one of the key elements in kinesiology: food. The course will examine food production, food preferences and social understandings of “healthy” eating.

Students will be asked: what does food mean to society? And what do these things mean to the making of who “we” are? And third, to what extent are food practices (production and consumption) in need of change to make them more egalitarian and inclusive?

Course Text / Readings

The following Texts are Mandatory and are available at the York Bookstore. A small set of readings will also be available at the bookstore:

- 1) Barndt, D. 2002. *Tangled Routes: Women, Work and Globalization on the Tomato Trail*. Aurora: Garamond
- 2) Clarke, A. 2004. *Love and Sweet Food*. Toronto: Thomas Allen
- 3) Ozeki, R. 1999. *My Year of Meats*. New York: Penguin.
- 4) Schlosser, E. 2000. *Fast Food Nation*. New York: Vintage.
- 5) Shiva, V. 1997. *Biopiracy*. Boston: South End.

Reading Schedule

September 4/9: Introduction: What is the meaning of food?

September 11: Ozeki,

September 16-18: Ozeki (Discussion Paper Due September 18)

September 23-25: Schlosser

September 30: No Class (Rosh Hashannah)

October 2 - 7: Schlosser (Discussion Paper Due October 7)

October 9: No Class (Yom Kippur)

October 14-16: Shiva

October 21 23: Shiva (Discussion Paper Due October 23)

October 28: Review

October 30- Mid-Term Quiz

November 4-6: Barndt

November 11-13: Barndt (Discussion Paper Due)

November 18-20: Clarke; Rushdie

November 25- Clarke (Discussion Paper Due)

November 27 Review

December 2: Final Quiz

Evaluation and Assignment Submission

a) Readings: You are required to read the material assigned for the class before the beginning of the class.

b) Assignments: The course assignments are designed to improve your ability to write clearly and effectively and to help you understand the course subject matter. As a result, each student will be

required to complete five pieces of written work in the term. They are as follows:

1) Four Discussion Papers (1-2 pages) (20%): Students are expected to hand in **four** discussion papers (out of a possible five) throughout the term. Each discussion paper will discuss one of the books in the course. The discussion paper should demonstrate that the student has read, understood and engaged with the material. Outside reading is not required in this case. Each discussion paper will be worth 5 per cent and must be handed in at the beginning of the class on the due date (see above). **At least two discussion papers should be handed in on or before October 23, 2008.**

2) Midterm Take Home Exam (20%): October 30, 2008

3) Final Take Home Quiz (40%): Due Date December 2, 2008.

4) Class Participation (20%): In this portion of the course, students will be marked on their participation in the class, both as listeners and as speakers. There will be no marks granted for attendance.

Grading and Lateness Penalties

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf)

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date may be penalized.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation