

*NCLC 102 Global Networks & Communities: Food and Sovereignty  
Fall Semester 2010*

**Food Book Assignment**

**Assignment Overview:**

Throughout this course, you will be developing a “food book” that contains three chapters and an epilogue. You are asked to choose a food item or dish that is significant to you, and situate it in the context of globalization, culturally, economically, and ecologically.

Each of the chapters will be submitted successively via PebblePad as Microsoft Word or similar word processing documents. Below is a brief summary of their format and due dates:

<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Formats</b>	<b>Due Dates (Midnight)</b>	<b>Points</b>
Chapter 1	Cultural Identity and History	Essay with pictures	Tue, 11/9, 5pm	<b>100</b>
Chapter 2	Production, Distribution and Consumption	Essay with metrics (tables, charts and/or graphs)	Mon, 11/22, Midnight	<b>100</b>
Chapter 3	Sustainability	Analytical essay with hyperlinks	Sat, 12/4, Midnight	<b>100</b>
Epilogue	Reflection on Food Book	Essay with references to course materials and other Food Book chapters	Mon, 12/13, Midnight	<b>70</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>370</b>

**Learning Objectives:**

- Articulate the multidimensional processes of globalization through a food object
- Critically analyze the challenges for enhancing the sustainability of the global food system
- Independently conduct academic research (“deep web,” encyclopedia, magazines, scholarly journals and books, etc.)
- Identify, evaluate, and select quality sources of information
- Be oriented to various kinds of media for presenting qualitative and quantitative data
- Further develop information technology skills utilizing more complex and creative aspects of familiar computer programs

**Important Information on Submission:**

- Chapters 1-3 should be named and submitted as follows: lastname\_FB# (e.g. Smith\_FB2).
- The Epilogue should be named and submitted as: lastname\_Epilogue (e.g. Smith\_Epilogue)

The expectations regarding each chapter of the Food Book and the Epilogue are described in detail below.

## **Chapter 1: Cultural Identity and History**

*"Food is a central activity of mankind and one of the single most significant trademarks of a culture."*

-James Beard award winning author Mark Kurlansky

Food is important to all of us, both in terms of sustenance and cultural identity. In this first chapter of the Food Book you will investigate a food item (e.g. potato) or dish (e.g. French Fries, latkes, etc.) that is important to you and you feel is tied to *your* cultural identity. Do keep in mind, however, when picking your dish or food item that it will become the focus of the larger “food book” project for this course.

Create a 1000-1500 word hybrid essay about your food item. This chapter will combine three components: a personal narrative, historical/cultural information and photographs about your food item/dish into a cohesive and polished finished essay. It should also include a properly formatted Bibliography or Works Cited that includes your photo sources.

- ***Personal narrative*** – here you will write about connections between your food item/dish and yourself and your family. Why is this item/dish important and why have you chosen it? Also consider the rituals involved in obtaining, preparing, and eating the item or dish.
- ***Historical/Cultural*** – examine the history of your food item/dish and how it came to be a part of the culture. Also consider the migration and adaptations of your food item/dish in the context of globalization.
  - This section will include some basic historical research using 2-3 sources and should be properly cited. Sources for this chapter are at your discretion and could include texts from the library, journal articles or legitimate sources from the Web (Wikipedia is ***NOT*** a legitimate source).
- ***Photo Component*** – Incorporate 5-7 photographs into your essay that help illustrate and tie together the narrative for this chapter. Photos can be of the food item/dish itself, venues where it is consumed (restaurants, dining halls, festivals), personal engagements that include this food/dish (festivals, holidays, gatherings, rituals, cultural events), or anything else that you feel supports your essay. Do not forget to credit your photo sources, either by the edge of your photo or in your bibliography.

## **Chapter 2: Production, Distribution and Consumption**

*“Increasingly, Americans want to know where the food they eat comes from, how it was grown and who grew it, because they are beginning to understand the connection between our stomachs and our common destiny.”*

(Dave Murphy, Food Democracy Now!)

For the second chapter of the Food Book, you will delve even further into your chosen food item to come to a deeper understanding of global networks by examining the issues of production, distribution and consumption as they relate to *an essential ingredient* in your food item or dish. Because of the way the course is designed and the examples we scrutinize as a cohort, you may **NOT** use corn or bananas as your ingredient.

For this chapter, you will again be submitting a 1000-1500 word essay detailing the aforementioned “chains” of production, distribution and consumption, incorporating factual statistical information into your essay to help clarify the complexities of the processes surrounding your food object. The metrics you incorporate into this chapter will be detailed in tables, charts and graphs. Your essay should connect specifically to the data as it is presented, and the charts, graphs and tables should be labeled and referenced in the body of the text.

Below is a brief overview of some of the things you should be thinking about as you plan your essay:

- **Production:** you will want to consider all of the factors surrounding the production of the ingredient you choose including location, environmental and biological variables, labor, capital, and governmental policy to name a few.
- **Distribution:** concerns addressed in this section are methods of transportation at all levels, supply chain, demand, labor, environmental and economic effects of transport, etc.
- **Consumption:** for this section you need to think about the larger sphere of consumption, including markets (wholesale and retail), marketing practices, branding, cost and profitability, demographics of consumers, and the residual impact of the consumption of this ingredient.

This assignment requires substantial research to effectively illustrate your item’s web of production, distribution, and consumption. As such, you must use both library and “deep web” sources and include a Works Cited or Bibliography (using MLA or APA format) of these sources. At **minimum** you should include the following source categories in this chapter:

- 1 academic book
- 2 articles from peer-reviewed and -edited journals (print and/or online)
- 2 articles from popular print periodicals (newspapers, magazines, etc.)
- 2 reliable (i.e. fully-sourced) websites—this may include primary source material (Wikipedia will **NOT** be accepted as a credible source)
- 1 class source (book or article)

### **Chapter 3: Sustainability**

*“Sustainable agriculture involves food production methods that are healthy, do not harm the environment, respect workers, are humane to animals, provide fair wages to farmers, and support farming communities.”*

(Sustainable Table, <http://www.sustainabletable.org>)

In this chapter, you will critically analyze whether the global system of your food ingredient is sustainable, namely, what its impact is on the three Es of sustainability: Ecological integrity, Economic vitality, and Equity among people.

You are required to write a hyperlinked essay that is between 1,000-1,200 words in length. Your essay should have a minimum of five links to relevant external sites. These are contextual links that provide additional information in order to enrich your core argument. Keep in mind that effective links serve to add meaning to your work. Any external links and visual images you use should relate meaningfully to the subject of your essay, rather than confuse or distract your reader.

As you plan this analytical essay, consider the following:

- **What** is the most pressing sustainability issue regarding your food ingredient?
- **Who** (individuals, communities, institutions, etc.) are influencing and/or affected by this issue and **How**?
- **Why** did the issue emerge in the production, distribution, and consumption of your ingredient?
- **What evidence** is available to support your claim?

Your hyper-linked essay must include a bibliography (using MLA or APA format) of all sources cited with information drawn from each of the following source categories (the guidelines below are a minimum):

- 4 academic books or peer-reviewed and -edited journals (print and/or online)
- 2 reliable (i.e. fully-sourced) websites—this may include primary source material

## **Epilogue**

For this final piece of your Food Book, you are asked to write a 500- to 750-word essay to reflect on the Food Book assignment. Below are questions you might consider as you look back at the different stages of your Food Book and the past seven weeks of NCLC 102.

- What ideas, theories, and learning experiences have been most compelling to you during the research and writing of the Food Book?
- What connections can you make between the Food Book and the various course readings, experiential learning field trips, films, and assignments?
- What has been challenging for you in the Food Book assignment and NCLC 102 learning community as a whole?
- Which competency have you developed the most through the course of working on your Food Book?
- What knowledge and understanding will you take with you as you progress through the rest of your college career?

Support your assertions with specific references to the course work and to other parts of your Food Book.