

World History: Food and Politics

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Aliyah Muttaqi

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Class Time: Monday or Thursday, 3:00-3:50 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Course Description:

Welcome to History: Food and Politics! In this year-long, live course for students in grades 9 and up, we will explore a variety of events throughout world history where political actions and agendas have impacted food production, ignited wars, and changed cultures forever. As a student of this course, you will develop critical thinking skills to understand how food and natural resources directly impact cultural landscapes.

From the Irish Potato Famine to the Delano Grape Boycott, food and politics have worked hand in hand to shape the world we live in. We will highlight the historical inequities different racial and ethnic groups have faced both in growing and consuming food. We will also address how internalized biases may impact our understanding and perception of food today. Students will participate in class discussions and read articles to become familiar with historical events about food, civilization, and government. Throughout this course we will be touching on formative moments in history as well as incorporating fun facts about foods we eat today.

This course is perfect for students who like international studies, history, food/cooking, and are looking for unique subjects to learn about. Classes meet once a week and are discussion based.

Objectives:

- To understand how history and cultures are shaped by food production, inequity, and trade
- To understand how racial biases and colonization might still impact food distribution and consumption
- To become familiar with historical patterns and agendas
- To develop critical thinking skills about war, policies, and protests
- To understand how civilizations have developed around food availability
- To understand the connection between food and workers rights

Text:

There is no required text for the course. Any readings will be made available electronically.

Schedule:

Week 1: *Introduction to Food and Politics*

Week 2 & 3: *Spices to Slavery, Food In The New World*

Week 4 & 5: *Dole Pineapple*

Week 6 & 7: *The United Fruit Company*

Week 8 & 9: *Islamic Influence on Spanish Cuisine*

Week 10 & 11: *Delano Grape Strike*

Week 12 & 13: *Japan - Tempura to Closing The Country*

Autumn Break

Week 14 & 15: *Thanksgiving*

Week 16: *Canadian First Nation Food Insecurity (Pt.1)*

Winter Break

Week 17: *Canadian First Nation Food Insecurity (Pt.2)*

Week 18 & 19: *The Irish Potato Famine*

Week 20 & 21: *The Boston Tea Party*

Week 22 & 23: *The Jungle and The Meat Packing Act 1906*

Week 24 & 25: *The Peanut Industry*

Spring Break

Week 26 & 27: *The Aztecs - Colonization and Cannibalism*

Week 28 & 29: *Vietnam - Poppies and Pastry*

Week 30 & 31: *Cuba - Sugar to Communism*

Week 32: *Presentations*

Homework:

Students will have required readings or videos to complete outside of scheduled class days. It is recommended they take notes for the next meeting's discussion. There is an optional final for this

course: either an end of year presentation on a student's food-related topic of choice or cooking a food we learned about in class.

Student Expectations:

Cameras must be on throughout the semester.*

Students are required to participate in discussions.*

Grading is optional.

*For any exceptions, the reason must be listed in the sign-up form so we can accommodate your student's needs.