

Multiculturalism Through the Arts
Beyond Sustenance: The Culture of Food in Global Film.

Course #

Spring 2015

Course

Rationale: To implement the goal of educating for diversity, the Scarsdale Interdependence Institute has been charged with supporting programs for teachers and students that explore cultures other than one's own, providing a global perspective on current events, and preparing students for the interdependent world in which they will live and work. With the purpose of widening the international focus of the school community, the Interdependence Institute and the STI are jointly sponsoring a program of multiculturalism through the arts in film.

Course

Description: This contribution to the global film series explores the role of food in different cultures. Movies that highlight national cuisines raise important questions about history, politics, identity, and ideology. What can we learn about a people by focusing on what and how they eat? How did certain foods become associated with certain groups? How do distinctive practices of preparing and consuming meals influence the nature of family and the society at large? How can we, as teachers, exploit the power of cinema to help students understand the lifecycle of foods (production, distribution, presentation, consumption, and disposal) and appreciate the many ways that food figures in their lives and in our multicultural world?

Course

Requirements: 1. Attend all sessions.
2. Read assigned materials, including selections from *Appetites and Anxieties: Food, Film, and the Politics of Representation*, by Cynthia Baron, Diane Carson, and Mark Bernard (Wayne State University Press: Detroit, 2014).
3. Create classroom applications through a unit of study based on the films and discussion that will extend the global studies curriculum.

Thursday April 16, Wednesday, April 29, Thursday May 7, and Thursday, May 14.

Thurs. 4/16 The semester series begins with selected film clips that introduce the concept of "foodways," a structured approach to food studies that examines the cultural, social, and economic practices relating to the production and consumption of food. Participants will trace the cultural norms associated with sharing sustenance and how these norms are culturally diverse or universally shared in the global community. They will discuss food connections within their personal cultural heritage and the global economy, how food can define and enhance our knowledge of a country or a culture, and ways to use the study of food to apply multicultural concepts and understandings in their curriculum areas.

Wed. 4/29 ***Le Chef*** (France, 2012) directed by Daniel Cohen

In the heady world of French cuisine, chefs are national celebrities and a three-star rating is the Holy Grail. To save his reputation and his kitchen, Chef Alexandre seeks help from a young enthusiast who knows more about his cooking than the renowned chef himself. This light-hearted comedy pokes fun at France's fastidious fascination with cuisine while demonstrating how food can be a consuming passion, a distraction from responsibility, and the enduring tie that binds families and friendships. (84 minutes. In French with English subtitles)

Thurs. 5/07 ***The Hundred-Foot Journey*** (India, 2014) directed by Lasse Hallström
The patriarch of a displaced Indian family decides to open a restaurant in France featuring the spicy foods of his homeland. When he opens his new business across the street from an established bastion of French haute-cuisine, his efforts spark a war of competing cooks and cultures while fanning the flames of love. (122 minutes, In English, French, and Hindi, with English subtitles)

Thurs. 5/14 To be determined.

Course

Coordinators: Carole Phillips, Librarian, Greenacres
Joan Weber, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administrative Services,
Scarsdale

Course

Speaker: Bill Costanzo, Distinguished SUNY Teaching Professor of English and Film

Open to: All

Time: 3:30-6:30pm, **Thursdays and Wednesdays**

Location: SHS 170

Credit: One point salary credit or stipend