

New Course Offering Winter 2010

Cul 2899 AA- Food Politics through Documentary Films

Instructor: Jolene Struebbe

Which are the Food Film *documentaries* that deserved an Oscar? While the answer to that question will continue to be debated, no doubt the films you will view in this class all deserved to be contenders. Most importantly, the subject matter of these films will educate you on political (food) issues that may be encountered when working in the food industry today.

Students will investigate current food topics such as, coffee – fair trade or not, America's dependence on high fructose corn syrup, controversies and issues with school lunch programs, and genetically modified seed usage in crop production.

Possible films include:

- ❑ **The World According to Monsanto** (seeds)
- ❑ *If time*, **Seeds of Deception**, **Bad Seed: The Truth About Our Food**, or **Food Matters**.
- ❑ **Big Sugar** (slave like conditions in present day sugar plantations and the role of sugar / soft drinks in obesity)
- ❑ **King Corn** (high fructose corn syrup)
- ❑ **Two Angry Moms** (school lunch programs) supplemented with the book, **Lunch Lessons** by Chef Ann Cooper and the work of Chef Jaime Oliver. Film coming out January 2010
- ❑ **The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil** – (one way to survive a collapse of our current agricultural system)
- ❑ **From the Ground Up** (coffee) and possibly supplemented by a visit from a former Folgers coffee bean buyer.
- ❑ **Food Fight** (shows people learning to feed themselves – birth of the local foods movement)
- ❑ *If time*, **Super Size Me** (fast food in school cafeterias)

Students will be exposed to these topics through the use of documentary films and supplemental readings. No prerequisites or background in this area is required and this course is equally appropriate as a culinary elective for current students, for those interested in earning continuing education hours, or for those in the community with a general interest. All films will be viewed on campus and students will be assessed a small fee (about \$20) the first class to pay for the films. No textbooks will be required.

The course will be heavily discussion based, with each student expected to be an active participant. We will all learn from each other in this class. Class grades will be assessed based on participation, a short paper and a final exam.

Dates of course: Monday and Thursday nights from 6 – 9. February 8, 11, 15 (Holiday), 18, 22, 25. March 1, 4, 8 (last class)

