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Course Title

Food, Culture & Globalization: Accra

Course Number

FOOD-UE 9186

Instruction Mode: Blended

Fall 2022

If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Go Local/Study Away student for NYU [SITE], please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. Please contact [ALIAS OR EMAIL] if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 05-August-2022

Lecturer Contact Information

Matilda Steiner-Asiedu

Contact by appointment via email:

msa7@nyu.edu

tillysteiner@gmail.com

Or phone: +233541260704

Prerequisites

None

Units earned

Credits earned 2

Course Details

- Tuesday 9:00 am to 11:00 am GMT
- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.
- Remote Participants: Your instructor will provide you with the Zoom link via NYU Classes.
- COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU [SITE] community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.
 - If you are attending in person, you will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol. Please note that you are expected to attend every class meeting in-person; however, this may change during the drop/add period if in-person

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- student registration increases significantly or at any point during the semester if local COVID-19 regulations require additional physical distancing.
- o Additionally, in-person students will be split into cohorts who will attend sessions [AS INDICATED HERE].

Course Description

This course is designed to put in perspective the interactions between culture, food systems, migration, and globalization, and how the interactions are impacting the food security and nutrition of the people. The course will detail the culture and traditions (including changes over the years), foodways, the current food environment in Accra, and the drivers of the nutrition transition. This course will also help students to understand the importance of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in food systems, the impacts of urbanization/migration on these, and the influence of government policies on the dynamics. The course has a field component which includes visits to a community to learn about food culture and festivals, markets (traditional and modern), and fast-food outlets/restaurants.

Course Objective

At the end of the course students should be able to explain:

- Food traditions and culture in Accra, past and present
- What is food and what does food mean to the people
- A food system, its components, and factors that influence it
- Food habits and beliefs of the people
- Rural/urban/peri-urban dynamics in food choices
- Socio-economic and socio-demographic influences on food choices
- Changes in food supply and distribution systems
- Impact of globalization on food systems and how it affects the people across the life stages and socio-demographics
- The food security situation and the factors affecting disparities among the population
- Role of government policy in shaping consumer behavior and diet of people

Assessment Components

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Teaching & Learning Philosophy

Required Text(s)

Electronic Resources (via Brightspace / NYU Library Course Reserves)

None

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

Texts that refer to specific topics are placed under the individual sessions dealing with the topics and marked as supplemental reading.

Additional Required Equipment

None

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Session 1 - 6 September 2022

Introduction to the course - overview, definitions, and concepts **Video:**
Food and Culture in Ghana

Session 2 - 13 September 2022

Food systems - components, drivers, and interaction with culture

Video: *Food system*

Supplemental Reading:

1. Marras, S., Bendeck, M.A., Salmivaara, M., and Seki, R. Urban food systems, food security and nutrition in West Africa, Accra, Ghana. FAO; ECOWAS.

https://www.academia.edu/37800733/Urban_food_systems_food_security_and_nutrition_in_Accra_Ghana

2. Ghana Nutrition Policy

<https://www.unicef.org/ghana/reports/national-nutrition-policy>

3. Ghana Zero Hunger Strategic Review

<https://www.wfp.org/publications/ghana-zero-hunger-strategic-review>

Session 3 - 20 September 2022

Food and identity - historical perspectives

Video: *Unforgettable meal*

Supplemental reading:

1. Miller, B.S. 2021. Food and Identity in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Ghana: Food, Fights, and Regionalism. *In* Ichijo, A. and Ranta, R. (Eds). Food and Identity in a Globalising World. Palgrave Macmillan Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-88403-1>

2. Ackah, C. and Aryeetey, E. 2012. Globalization, Trade and Poverty in Ghana. International

Development Research Centre Ottawa 250 pages [Globalization, Trade and Poverty in Ghana](#)
Chapters 5, 8, 9, and 10

Session 4 - 27 September 2022

Food and Identity - preserving cultural heritage: food, traditional religion, and Christianity.

By a guest lecturer

Session 5 - 4 October 2022

Food and Ga traditions – conversation with a traditionalist.

A visit to a Ga community

By a guest lecturer

Session 6 - 11 October 2022

Food production – the impact of urbanization and globalization

Visits to farms in urban areas

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Supplemental reading:

Drechsel, P. and Keraita, B. (Eds.). 2014. Irrigated urban vegetable production in Ghana: characteristics, benefits and risk mitigation. 2nd ed. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute (IWMI). 247p. doi:10.5337/2014.219]
https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Books/PDF/irrigated_urban_vegetable_production_in_ghana.pdf

Session 7 - 18 October 2022

Food distribution – a traditional open-air market

Food availability and quality in markets (wholesale and retail) – first leg of a comparative survey of a traditional market (Madina) and ‘modern’ shopping malls or supermarkets

Session 8 - 25 October 2022

Food distribution - supermarkets

Shopping malls (Osu mall or Accra mall) – second leg of a comparative survey of a traditional market (Madina) and ‘modern’ shopping malls or supermarkets

Session 9 - 1 November 2022

Food processing – the role of small-scale enterprises (SME)

A visit to SMEs producing local food products

Session 10 - 8 November 2022

Food preparation and consumption - traditional foods and restaurants

A visit to a traditional restaurant - ‘chop bar’

Observation of street-vended foods

Video: *Street Food in Accra*

Session 11 - 15 November 2022

Food preparation and consumption - influence of globalization

Visits to fast food restaurants

Video: *Fast food restaurants in Accra*

Session 12 - 22 November 2022

Ensuring food safety - the role of the Food and Drugs Authority

By a guest lecturer

Supplementary reading:

National food safety policy

<https://fdaghana.gov.gh/img/reports/NFSP%20Document.pdf>

Session 13 - 29 November 2022 Food fair - Assorted foods on display

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Session 14 - 16 December 2022

Reports on field visits

1. Comparative report on Madina market (traditional/local) and ShopRite supermarket.
2. Write a report on any of the other field visits or interactions with Accra residents (the co-curricular activity).

Classroom Etiquette

To optimize the experience in a blended learning environment, please consider the following:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary).
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- If deemed necessary by the study away site (ie COVID related need), synchronous class sessions may be recorded and archived for other students to view. This will be announced at the beginning of class time.
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

Interaction with Accra residents on food habits and culture:

Interview people about their foodway/habits.

Find out the factors that have influenced their food behaviors.

Your Lecturer

Professor Matilda Steiner-Asiedu holds a BSc in Home Science from the University of Ghana, Legon; a BSc in Biology/Chemistry, MPhil and PhD in Nutrition from the University of Bergen, Norway; and an MPH from Brown University, USA. She is the past Dean of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Ghana. From 1993 to date, Matilda has been teaching and supervising local and international students studying nutrition, food science, agriculture, medicine, dietetics, and public health at undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Ghana. She engages in the training of nurses, medical officers, dietitians, agricultural extension officers, as well as Small and Medium-scale Enterprises in the food industry. She is also an adjunct professor at New York University, Accra Campus where she teaches both global nutrition and Food Culture and Globalization.

Matilda has presented scientific papers at international and local conferences on public health and nutrition issues, and she has served on national and international scientific committees. In Ghana, she has played, and continues to play, a pivotal role in drafting working documents for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the School Feeding Program, the National Development Planning Commission, NGOs, and some UN Organizations. She led the four-person team that conducted the Ghana Zero Hunger Strategic Review in 2017. She also made key contributions to the development of Ghana's commitments submitted to the UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021. She has co-authored over 90 scientific papers in international

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peer-reviewed journals and several book chapters. She has also won many grants and sub-awards. Matilda was named the 2012 Laureate of the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Award for Women in Science in the section on Life and Earth Sciences.

Through innovation and hard work, Matilda motivates herself and those around her to do their best. She is a creative and dedicated teacher and an excellent role model who maintains high standards for herself, her students, and her staff. So far, she has supervised 72 students (64 as the main supervisor) at Masters, and 24 (20 as the main supervisor) at PhD levels, including international students. She is a team player and collaborates with researchers at academic institutions and in private industry in Ghana and abroad, working towards major development goals. Matilda is passionate about improving people's nutrition and livelihoods.

Academic Policies

Grade Conversion

Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A = 94-100 or 4.0
A- = 90-93 or 3.7
B+ = 87-89 or 3.3
B = 84-86 or 3.0
B- = 80-83 or 2.7
C+ = 77-79 or 2.3
C = 74-76 or 2.0
C- = 70-73 or 1.7
D+ = 67-69 or 1.3
D = 65-66 or 1.0
F = below 65 or 0

Attendance Policy

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers, or online through NYU Brightspaces if the course is remote synchronous/blended, is expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting. If you have scheduled a remote course immediately preceding/following an in-person class, you may want to write to [site alias] to see if you can take your remote class at the Academic Center.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or site staff may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from an NYU Staff member as proof. Emergencies or other

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exceptional circumstances that you wish to be treated confidentially must be presented to staff. Doctor's notes must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequently joining the class late.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to site staff; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

Final exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Late Submission of Work

1. Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (including weekends and public holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU SITE Staff), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.
2. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (including weekends and public holidays) following the submission date receives an F.
3. Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days late (including weekends and public holidays) without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.
4. Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.
5. Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

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As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU SITE's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)

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Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, NYU Classes, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website](#).

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the [Personalizing Zoom Display Names website](#).

Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU [SITE].

Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form \(link\)](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Phone number : 024 - 315 - 0011
- **Note: Aspects of this course syllabus might change during the semester**

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