Food, Culture and Globalization: Florence

Course Number
FOOD-UE 9185 F01

Brightspace course site https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/207117

Fall 2022
Please contact florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 17 August 2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Olivier De Maret
Office hours are on Wednesdays before class (11-12am) in Office 5.

Units earned
2

Course Details

- Wednesday, 1:30pm to 4:15pm, on 7 & 21 September, 5 & 19 October, 9 & 23 November, 14 December (exam), as well as on Friday 2 December (field trip)

- All times are Central European Time (CET). Please note that in Europe, Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, October 30th 2022 and clocks will be set one hour earlier.

- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.

- COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC and local guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being are our top priority.

Course Description
This course investigates current transformations in the food systems and cultures of Florence under conditions of globalization. How have produce, people and animals interacted to make life possible in modern cities and how have those interactions changed over time in
Florence’s history? What kinds of systems have been built to provide energy, bring potable water into cities, take sewage out, and provide clean air?

As a course in new sensory urbanism this curriculum seeks to expand the traditional scope and range of the studied senses from sight (e.g. art, architecture) and sound (music), to smell, taste and touch, so as to rethink what it means to be a modern urban subject engaged in the pleasures and powers of consumption. Through lectures, readings and field trips students will master established facts and concepts about contemporary urban food cultures and produce new knowledge of the same.

**Course Objectives**

On completion of this course, students will:

- Have mastered the concepts of culture, globalization and sensory urbanism from a food-studies perspective.
- Have developed the skill of thinking about social and cultural issues through the lens of food and systems.
- Be able to identify, analyze and discuss the essential processes that make up the global food system.
- Have applied theory to the practice of basic ethnographic techniques.
- Have grasped how the multi-sensory perception of food shapes our urban consumer experiences.

**Assessment Components**

- Academic Commitment: 10%
- Taste of City Essay (5 pages, double-spaced, with footnotes): 50%
- Urban Food Presentation (including slides and field notes): 40%

- **Academic Commitment:** I will evaluate your academic participation at the end of the semester and give you points based on the following criteria:

  10 points: extensive engagement with course material; constant contribution to class discussions and activities.
  9 points: committed engagement with course material; consistent contribution to class discussions and activities.
  8 points: regular engagement with course material; usual contribution to class discussions and activities.
  7 points: moderate engagement with course material; discrete contribution to class discussions and activities.
  6 points: occasional engagement with course material; infrequent contribution to class discussions and activities.
  5 points: little engagement with course material; infrequent contribution to class discussions and activities.
4 points: sporadic engagement with course material; rare contribution to class discussions and activities.

3 points: sporadic engagement with course material; no contribution to class discussions and activities.

2 points: sporadic to no engagement with course material; no contribution to class discussions and activities.

1 point: no engagement with course material; no contribution to class discussions and activities.

0 points: no engagement with course material; negative contribution to class discussions and activities.

- Taste of Florence Essay: As midterm assignment, each student will submit a 5-page (double-spaced, 12-point font) essay that describes how Florence tastes to them by linking personal experiences and reflections to course material. Following Charles Spence’s approach to food, students are encouraged to refer to all the senses involved in the multisensory perception of food (taste, of course, but also smell and touch, as well as sight and sound). They should draft a coherent narrative written in the first person that ultimately describes their personal take on the food identity of Florence. Students are free to integrate various types of material in addition to the 5 pages of text (e.g. photographs, drawings, music, films, websites, etc.) to further develop their ideas. Their argumentation should be concise, convincing and academically compelling and be supported by 5 scholarly sources cited in footnotes (i.e. books, chapters, and articles in peer-reviewed journals, but no random websites).

- Urban Food Group Presentation: Students will work in groups to select a food/drink-related establishment in Florence and conduct an ethnographic study of it that explores how globalization has impacted Florence's food system. They should visit the establishment at least twice: once to familiarize themselves with the place and take notes of salient issues, then a second time to refine their observations and relate them to course material, with the overall aim of contextualizing descriptions and giving meaning to the practices observed. This interactive process of observation and analysis should be recorded in informal field notes that will be submitted for grading. If lockdowns or restrictions on movement were to take place, students should be able to continue the assignment by consulting online material (e.g. menus, pictures, reviews). In any case, I recommend getting started collecting material as soon as possible. On final exam day, each group will give a 20-to-25-minutes presentation during which they will describe their investigation, contextualize observations and analyze the results in relation to the course. Ultimately, they should identify their establishment with at least one of the multiple food labels discussed during the semester (i.e. traditional, modernist/futurist, global, slow and/or authentic). A hard copy of the presentation along with your group’s field notes and a bibliography of at least 5 scholarly sources (i.e. books, chapters, and articles in peer-reviewed journals, but no random websites) should be submitted via email for grading. All members of the group will receive the same grade.

Detailed handouts and explanations will be provided during the semester.

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.
**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. 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 is expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction on the participation component of the final grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course.

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 florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu 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. For two or more consecutive days of absences due to health reasons, a doctor's note must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team.

*Please note that remote attendance will only be considered by the Office of Academic Support if for health reasons you are unable to attend class in person after two consecutive days of absence.*

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed by getting notes from a classmate or meeting with your faculty member during office hours.

Exams, tests and quizzes, oral presentations, and/or important deadlines that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation.

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence Attendance Policy Flowchart.

The Global Attendance Policy is posted in the Academic Policies tab in Brightspace, on the NYU Florence Student Portal website, and is posted around campus.

After you have read and reviewed the policies, if there is anything that still needs further clarification or raises a question, please reach out to florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu.

**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**

Please refer to Academic Policies in Brightspace.
Required Text(s)

All readings are available online on the NYU Brightspace course site. Hard copies of some textbooks are available for consultation and semester-long loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Please email florence.library@nyu.edu to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the Ulivi Library Book Scan Form.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
See the Resources section on the NYU Brightspace course site.

Session 1 – Wednesday 7 September
Introduction and Overview of the Course

Session 2 - Wednesday 21 September
Florentine Food Culture in the Nineteenth Century

Session 3 – Wednesday 5 October
Fascism, Food and the Senses

TASTE OF FLORENCE ESSAY DUE ON WEDNESDAY 12 October

Session 4 – Wednesday 19 October
Food, Globalization and Migration

+ “Food and the Villa” with Francesca Baldry, Villa La Pietra Collection Manager, NYU Florence.

Session 5 – Wednesday 9 November
Slow Food and the Postwar System

+ “Slow Food Production” with Nicholas Dakin-Elliot, Associate Horticulturalist, NYU Florence.
Session 6 – Wednesday 23 November
The Search for Authentic Food Today

Session 7 – Friday 2 December
Truffles: Tuscan Perspectives on a Globalized Product *(To be confirmed)*
Field trip to Fattoria Agriturismo Lavacchio outside of Florence near Pontassieve, where we will hunt for truffles, share lunch and visit a wind-mill.

Session 8 (Final Exam) – Wednesday 14 December

**URBAN FOOD GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
Students will be informed of suggested activities during the semester.

Your Lecturer
Olivier de Maret holds a doctorate in history from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and specializes in food studies. His research interests and publications focus on food systems, Italian food history and the relationship between food, migration and identity.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism
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 offenses 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 Office of Academic Support 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)

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 Brightspace, 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 Florence.

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 Telephone: 055 5007277

SAMPLE SYLLABUS