

NYU Paris

FREN-UA9865

Food in France

Instructor Information

- Prof. Catherine Healey
- Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-12:00noon.
- ch120@nyu.edu

Course Information

- Fren-UA9865
- Food in France
- "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are."
- Brillat-Savarin coined his famous phrase at the beginning of the 19th century. For those of us trying to understand France today it serves as a key to help us unlock French identity. What better way to gain an insight into French society, culture and politics too, than through the way people in France produce, prepare and consume food? In this class we will read texts of literature, history and anthropology, watch documentaries, fictional films and television programs, analyse advertising and marketing trends to attempt to unravel the myth and the reality of French cuisine and eating habits. To succeed in this class students must be willing to plunge into French life by going to visit markets and supermarkets, bakeries and delicatessens, restaurants and food trucks and to engage with the people who run them and frequent them.
- No prerequisites
- Monday and Wednesday: 1:00-2:30pm **NB: Special meetings outside regular class times: Friday March 1 at 9:00 am and Wednesday March 6 at 6:30pm.**
- **As our class falls on Monday and Wednesday, the same day as three public holidays in France, April 26, May 1 and May 8 when NYUP is closed, we will have three make up classes on Friday February 22, Friday March 15 and Friday April 26. You will be expected to attend these class meetings.**

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Analyse information from a wide variety of written sources from literary texts to advertising copy.
- Gain information about life in France today from visual and audio-visual material as well as through experience of meeting French people today.
- Have a better understanding of the way French people view their heritage, themselves and their changing society.
- Take full advantage of the experiential learning offered by living in a foreign culture.
- Express their findings and conclusions in classroom discussions and in written form.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Class participation is an essential feature of this class. Students will be expected to make numerous visits to markets, food emporia, gourmet shops, bakeries and restaurants, to engage with the people who work there and to report back to class on what they have seen and learned.

Written Work

Paper 1: A five page report on our class visit to the *Salon International de l'Agriculture*
Due March 8

Paper 2: An 8-10 page research paper on a subject of your choice relating to Food in France.
Due May 20.

More information will be provided in class.

Extra Visits

Students will be assigned places to visit in Paris outside of class time and will be expected to come to class with a full report and able to discuss what they learned. These oral reports will count towards the participation grade.

Tests & Quizzes

Mid-term Exam: Monday March 18

Final Exam: Wednesday May 22

Assigned Readings

The Course Reader is comprised of texts from works of French literature and history, anthropology and criticism.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class Participation	15%
Mid-Term	20%
Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	20%
Final Exam	30%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory
C+	11	Above Average
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average

Letter Grade	Points	Description
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Feb. 4 & 6	Identity and Food - Myth and Reality	C. Adams, The Taste of Terroir	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 1
Feb. 11 & 13	Terroir: Soil, Climate and Skill	P. Ferguson, Culinary Configurations	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 2
Feb. 18, 20 & 22	French Cuisine in History and Literature	J.R. Pitte, Governing at the Table G. Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i>	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 3
Feb. 27 & March 1	Salon International de l'Agriculture	P. Boissard, The Future of a Tradition: Two Ways of Making Camembert	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 4
March 6: 1pm & 6:30pm	<i>Babette's Feast</i>	P. Ferguson, <i>Babette's Feast: a Fable for Culinary France</i>	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 5
March 11, 13 & 15	French Food from the Outside - Gastronomic Tourism	J. Child, <i>My Life in France</i> , Ch.1&2 M.F.K. Fisher, Long Ago in France, Ch.1-5	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 6

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
March 18 & 20	Mid-term Exam		
April 1 & 3	Changing Society, Changing Foodways	R. Barthes, Towards a Psychosociology of Contemporary Food Consumption	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 7
April 8 & 10	Be Prepared...or Not	J.P. Murphy, Foie Gras in the Freezer	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 8
April 15 & 17	Food and Immigrant Identity	C. Yount- André, Empire's Leftovers Film: <i>The Hundred Foot Journey</i>	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 9
April 24 & 26	Food as a Political Issue: Halal Wars and Struggle for Ecology	A. Crisafis, Pork or Nothing	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 10
April 29	Food and Popular Culture	Film: <i>Julie & Julia</i>	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 11
May 6	Vegetarians, Vegans and Animal Activists	TBA	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 12
May 13 & 15	Food and Social Justice from the <i>Soupe Populaire</i> to <i>La Chorba</i>	TBA	Reading Questions & Outside Assignment 13
May 20 & 22	Review & Final Exam		Research Paper Due

Course Materials

Required Materials

- A Course Reader to be purchased at Mistral Photo, 40 rue Saint Jacques, 75007
- A small notebook to take notes when on outside visits.

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad 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 is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:*

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (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.

Instructor Bio

Professor Healey completed her undergraduate work at Bryn Mawr College and her Ph. D. in Early Modern French History at the Johns Hopkins University. She has been teaching, researching, writing and cooking in France ever since. Her research interests are French Social and Cultural History (Early Modern and Modern)- The History of Paris -The Social and Cultural History of the Great War - History and Memory - Women's History and Gender Studies.