WS 302-4: Special Topic: Women and Food

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Food is becoming increasingly significant in contemporary consumer society. Evidence for this can be found in growth of food studies as an academic discipline, the growing number of periodical devoted to cooking, and the increase in restaurants and culinary tourism in urban centres around the globe. This course addresses contemporary food practices from the perspective of women. According to anthropologists Counihan and van Esterik, ‘women have a special relationship to food across history and cultures.’ This relationship encompasses agricultural production and food activism, domestic feeding, dysfunctional eating and above all embodied identities. Specifically, the course is framed in terms of how food production and consumption practices construct identities and differences of gender, race, class and sexuality. Also included are the ethics and politics of food practices such as vegetarianism and food security. Readings are drawn from a wide range of disciplines.

Required readings:
- Custom courseware available from the university bookstore.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
20% - attendance and participation
20% - take-home midterm examination
10% - seminar presentation
20% - short paper based on presentation
30% - research paper

Prerequisites: Six credits in WS including WS 101 and/or WS 102.