Welcome to the California State University, Chico
General Education Upper-Division Theme V:
Consuming Interests: Food and Society

Beginning in Spring 2009!

Contemporary American society is obsessed with food: food and cooking magazines spill over the racks at bookstores and grocery stores, and the Food Network runs shows 24/7, from "Emeril Live" to Rachael Ray; books on eating healthfully (and lavishly!) top the best-seller lists; organic food production is debated on local and national levels; and nutritionists are interviewed from CNN and to the Senate floor. Yet few of us reflect on the significance of food in our everyday lives and in the lives of others around the world. Food is not only fuel required to sustain humans biologically; it functions symbolically and metaphorically, defining who we are, how we view our bodies, and how we view plants and other animals. Through choices of what we eat (or through what the industry chooses for us to eat), we express our identities and cultures. Similarly, choices in how we produce, harvest, and distribute our food express historically and culturally specific value systems. In this theme -- through literature, film, the media, popular culture, folklore, archeology, history, nutrition, and agriculture -- students explore the many roles that food plays in our lives--as sustenance, as expression of identity, as entertainment, as ritual, and as a means to bring people together in a community.

Curriculum:

Required (3 units):
ANTHRO 340 Anthropology of Food (NW) – NEW Spring 2009!

Choose One (3 units):
NFSC 310 Ecology of Human Nutrition (NW) – NEW Fall 2009!
PSSC 390 Food Forever (NW)

Choose One (3 units):
HUMN 380 Food and Film -- NEW Fall 2009!
ENGL 365 Food and Literature (ETH) -- NEW Spring 2009!

Please email Dr. Lynn Houston at lmhouston@csuchico.edu for more information.