

HIST 5398 Topics in European/World History: Food & Empire

Dr. Mandy Link

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays/Wednesdays 1-3pm, and by appointment

Email: mlink@uttyler.edu or via Canvas

Course Description:

This course will examine the networks of European imperialism, primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries, through the lens of food history to better understand the complexities of the Age of Empires. Various foodstuffs like sugar and coffee drove increased imperial conquest, and the withholding of food was often used by empires as a weapon of oppression. This course will provide students with a thorough understanding of the role of food in the imperial conquest of European empires.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- analyze significant issues, trends and developments in the study of political, social, and cultural history of food history and European empires
- analyze significant shifts in the historiography of food history
- make a clearly written and clearly presented argument, including a thesis and sufficient and well-used supporting detail
- to demonstrate a heightened ability to synthesize and analyze class material, readings, and external research

Graduate Course Etiquette

Graduate courses are intended to challenge you. The expectations are much higher than in undergraduate courses. You are expected to master the material each week and participate in our weekly class sessions. *Since this is a synchronous course, it will be held via Zoom. You must have a working camera and microphone. Your camera **MUST** be on for the duration of our class. If you have family interrupting you and would like to mute your camera, that is fine on occasion. But please do not leave your camera muted for long periods of time. Do not use your phone/text during class. Treat this synchronous class just the same as you would being in person—with collegiality, professionalism, and respect for your colleagues and myself.*

There is an etiquette to participating in graduate courses. When participating in discussions, you want to make sure you are demonstrating your knowledge and understanding of the material through speaking during class, while at the same time not monologuing.

In attaining a master's degree in history, you are joining a small percentage of Americans (13.1% according to census.gov) and in joining this elite group, you are training in a professional capacity. Regardless of what employment you attain with your MA, you need to comport yourself with collegiality and professionalism. In our classroom you will practice this through respectful behavior to your classmates and myself. Historians often disagree (it's part and parcel of the field) **BUT** when you do so it must be polite and respectful. Students who do not behave thusly will be sent out of the Zoom classroom and will not be allowed to return to the next class until they have met (virtually) with myself and demonstrate that they can comport themselves maturely and professionally. Behaviors to avoid include but are not limited to cursing at a fellow student or myself, using derogatory language, yelling, etc.

Required Readings:

You will read a book and/or articles each week. Please do not feel obligated to purchase every book. You're welcome to check them out from the library or use audio or eBook editions. That being said, it is your responsibility to secure a copy far enough in advance to have the reading done prior to class. Failure to secure a copy is **no excuse** for not doing the reading. The books are below, and the order can be found in Canvas Modules (reading schedule is subject to change). Book reviews ARE NOT a substitute for reading the book!

Benjamin Aldes Wurgaft and Merry White, *Ways of Eating: Exploring Food through History and Culture*, University of California Press, 2023.

Jean-Louis Flandrin and Massimo Montanari (eds), *Food: A Culinary History*, Columbia University Press, 2013.

Henry Notaker, *History of Cookbooks: From Kitchen to Page over Seven Centuries*, University of California Press, 2017.

Rachel Laudan, *Cuisine and Empire: Cooking in World History*, University of California Press, 2015.

Lizzie Collingham, *Hungry Empire: How Britain's Quest for Food Shaped the Modern World*, Vintage Books, 2018.

Erika Rappaport, *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World*, Princeton University Press, 2019.

Brian Cowan, *The Social Life of Coffee: The Emergence of the British Coffeehouse*, Yale University Press, 2011.

Jennifer Regan-Lefebvre, *Imperial Wine: How the British Empire Made Wine's New World*, University of California Press, 2022.

Sidney W. Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*, Penguin Books, 1986.

Lizzie Collingham, *Curry: A Tale of Cooks and Conquerors*, Vintage Books, 2006.

Cormac Ó Gráda, *Famine: A Short History*, Princeton University Press, 2010.

Padraic X. Scanlan, *Rot: An Imperial History of the Irish Famine*, Basic Books, 2025.

Yan Slobodkin, *The Starving Empire: A History of Famine in France's Colonies*, Cornell University Press, 2023.

Requirements and Grades:

Participation	150 points
Book reviews (12 x 10 points each)	120 points
Final Project: Option 1 Research Paper	
Research topic proposal & bibliography	50 points
Research project essay	150 points
Final Project: Option 2 Historiography	
Historiographical essay proposal & bibliography	50 points
Historiographical final essay	150 points
Total:	470 points

470-425 A	329-282 D
424-380 B	281 and below F
379-330 C	

Explanation of Assignments:

Participation 150 points: Graduate courses are discussion based by design and thus are only as successful as the preparation and dialogue that you put in. Your participation grade will depend on your attendance as well as your input. **Two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.** To help you prepare for our discussion you will turn in a book review (instructions below) prior to our class meeting time. Being prepared and discussing each week's books are how you earn these points.

Graduate courses are rigorous by nature and while it is tempting to only read book reviews of the assigned readings, that is insufficient. Reading book reviews can be helpful, but I recommend reading them *after* you have read the week's book. You need to read the

books/articles yourself to ascertain *your* understanding of the book rather than seeing it only through the lens of someone else.

The heart of academia is healthy debate, and I fully expect a variety of perspectives on the topics we will cover. That being said, I expect each of you to conduct yourselves as professionals. Disruptive, disrespectful behavior, excessive profanity, or personal insults towards other students or myself will result in 1) a verbal warning 2) expulsion from an individual class meeting 3) being dropped from the class.

Book Reviews 120 points: Writing is at the center of the historian's craft and to help improve this skill you will write book reviews. Historians write book reviews constantly and practicing this skill will better prepare you for the job market. While journals will vary a bit on the length of book reviews, for our purposes they should be no more than 1000 words. This word limit is strictly enforced to help you practice concise writing. Book reviews must address the author's argument, where their work fits within the historiography, strengths, and weaknesses. You must also include **3 questions** at the end of your review (these do not count for your word count). These questions will form the basis of our class discussion so be thoughtful and open ended (no questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no"). You will choose one of your questions to ask of your classmates during class.

A book review example will be provided to give you guidance.

These book reviews not only help prepare you for the work of being a historian but will also prepare you for our weekly discussions.

Final Project Options

You have two final project options: a research project or a historiographical essay. Once you have chosen you cannot switch.

Option 1 Research project: This option allows you to explore an aspect of theme of this course: the interwar years politically, socially, and culturally in Europe, 1914-1938 that you would like to investigate further. This is a good option for those with an interest or for those who are writing/going to write a thesis that relates to the war in some way. It should be *at least* 4000 words in length (cover page and bibliography do not count toward the word count).

- **Topic Proposal & Bibliography 50 points:** Topic and preliminary bibliography must be submitted by week 5. The proposal should be 500 words. You will need to demonstrate that you've narrowed your topic.
- The bibliography must show that you have located both primary sources (those written during the time period being researched) and academic secondary sources (those written by historians). You will need to compile a minimum of 5 primary sources and 10 secondary sources.
 - For the secondary sources, you will need to find books and/or articles written by historians and published by reputable, academic presses.

- **Research Project Essay 150 points:** This essay will be due during finals week and uploaded to Canvas. It must be a minimum of 4000 words, use at least 5 primary sources and 10 secondary sources. If a book from class is helpful, please include it.
 - Chicago Manual of Style must be used for formatting and footnotes.
 - Further instructions will be posted on Canvas.
 - Must include a cover page and bibliography.
- Dr. Link reserves the right to veto or edit topics.
- This essay will be due during finals week and uploaded to Canvas.

Option 2 Historiographical Essay 200 points: Over the course of the semester, you have read several books about food and empires politically, socially, and culturally. To effectively demonstrate the knowledge you have gained, you will write a 4000-word historiographical essay. To effectively discuss the trajectory of this historiography you will need to use *at least* 7 of the readings from class and well as find and read an additional 5.

For these additional five works they can be either theoretical works or case studies, but they must all pertain to food and empire history politically, socially, or culturally. They must be academic works (written by a PhD in history and published by an academic press). This is a great opportunity not only to work on essay writing and analyzing historiography, but also to hone your abilities to assess how an academic work fits into the historiography you've learned. **These extra 5 books MUST be approved by Dr. Link by Week 5 and are worth 50 points.**

This essay will be due during finals week and uploaded to Canvas for 150 points.

THERE WILL BE NO INCOMPLETES for failure to complete an assignment. Assignments not turned in will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Course Structure & Etiquette:

1. Our course will be held virtually, through Zoom. The Zoom link will be listed on Canvas. Attendance is mandatory. **You will need to have your camera and microphone on.**
 - a. If pets or family make their way in, that is absolutely fine. You can always mute your microphone if there are loud noises on your end.
2. Make sure to have your Canvas notifications sent to your email. You are responsible for staying up to date on deadlines, announcements, etc.
 - a. You are responsible for all class lectures, readings, and any other videos assigned.
3. The classroom is a place for intellectual growth and to achieve that we must all be respectful and courteous to each other. Respect is a must! We will not always all agree (that is the heart of academics!) but it is crucial that we express our ideas in a respectful way. Students who do not adhere to this will be asked to leave the class and will receive 0 points in the course (to be determined at Dr. Link's discretion).
 - a. Be human: Remain patient, ask/wait for clarification, avoid assumptions and rushed judgement. Forgive mistakes and apologize for errors.

- b. Be a good colleague: Remember your role as a student in the course. Make sure you're following directions. Be authentic and collaborative with colleagues. Be aware of your behavior and how others interpret your communication.
 - c. Be professional: Proofread your own writing for spelling, grammar, and punctuation to prevent miscommunication. Avoid slang, sarcasm, or emotionally charged writing. Profanity and offensive language will not be tolerated.
 - d. Be a responsible citizen: Graduate classes are, in part, about professionalization as a historian. This means conducting yourself in a professional manner in your in class conduct as well as in your interactions with classmates and professors.
- 4. Late assignments not accepted.
- 5. **No** emailed assignments accepted. Assignments **must** be submitted in hard copy or on Canvas as directed on the assignment.
 - a. Assignments turned in early are not eligible for early review or assessment by Dr. Link
- 6. **Use technology responsibly and considerately.** It is tempting to surf the internet, check your phone, etc. while in a Zoom classroom but please refrain. We will have breaks where you can check your texts, get a snack, etc. When in class be present.
- 7. When you email me, I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. On weekends, it may take longer but I will definitely get back to you within 48 hours at the latest.
 - a. When you email me, address your email to: Professor/Dr. Link and sign it with your name.
 - b. If you have a procedural question –about due dates, what the assignment requirements are, etc. –check the syllabus and the materials on Canvas, as your answer may be there, and you can know immediately, rather than awaiting an email reply.
 - c. I will always address you directly and respectfully in my emails to each of you; I ask the same courtesy in return. If students continue to refuse to address the faculty by name, I reserve the right to not reply to the email.

Student Standards of Academic Integrity & AI statement:

As adults and college students I expect the work you turn in to be your work and your work alone. I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or collusion (see definitions below) and if you do any of these you will receive a 0 on that assignment with no option of resubmitting. You may also receive a 0 in the class depending on the egregiousness of the scholastic dishonesty and be reported to Judicial Affairs. Dr. Link reserves the right to adjudicate punishment for each individual case. The full UT Tyler policy for plagiarism is in the Canvas Course Materials Module.

UT Tyler Statement on AI:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and

students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy

AI Statement for this course: AI/Chat GPT is not permitted in this course. To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment. This includes but is not limited to Grammarly, AI checkers, & ChatGPT.

The use of Chat GPT or any generative AI is considered plagiarism and WILL NOT be tolerated in this course. You MUST do your own original work. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy, meaning that any use of AI will result in an automatic zero for the assignment(s)

Assignments using AI in **ANY AMOUNT** will receive a zero with no chance of resubmission.