

Black Southern Black History and Politics Through Food

IDH 2930

Hume 119 W8 (3-350pm)

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Office Hours: MW 1230-130pm and by appointment

Cuisines are central to defining national cultures: imagine Italy without handmade pasta, or France without its wine or cheese cultures, or China without Chinese food. They are also central to defining the boundaries of communities within nations: dietary restrictions in religions in part tell us with whom we are allowed to dine, and who we can't invite. So there are broad reasons to explore the role that food, its preparation, and its serving plays in contemporary societies.

This one-credit course will build on three books from which students can choose one—*High on the Hog*, *The Food Gene*, or *The Potlikker Papers*-- to explore the role that food, and those who prepare it, have played in the contemporary Black South. From slave cooks who prepared food for white masters, to black activists who cooked for 1950s protesters, to the architects of 1970s Soul Food in the reinvigoration of black popular culture in the 1970s, to waves of immigration from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South Asia and the Caribbean, food has been a vessel for change in the South. The ways in which it has been chart some of the most important social changes in the United States in the last two centuries, and in particular the role of the South in imagining what is authentically “American.”

Because this is a one-credit course, assignments will be limited. During spring break 2022, students will be required to have a meal at a restaurant in their hometown (or Gainesville if they prefer) and to submit a short (1-2 page) essay exploring the decor, the menu, the proprietors, through the lens of one or more chapters of the book they have chosen. In addition, students will submit short (<1 page) response papers in three of the weekly course meetings. Finally, the class will meet collectively twice during the semester at local restaurants that are broadly, "Southern" and, logistics of COVID permitting, follow those with visits to relevant exhibits at the Matheson History Museum and the Florida Museum of Natural History. So long as administrative rules permit, the development support for this Uncommon Reads course will pay for students' meals and admission fees to museums.

Required books: As noted above, select one of the three books listed. Course themes will cover parts of all three books. I have intentionally left topical themes for course components broad to give students maximal leeway in bringing their insights from the book they selected, and all additional experiences and insights, to bear on what will be open discussions. Note: Harris's book is also the basis for an award-winning Netflix series of the same name, and we will watch the first season (four episodes) in class.

Course Schedule:

January 5: Course Introduction.

January 12 and 19: Origins of the Africanization of the Southern Territories

Read from Twitty, chapters 1-3 20; Harris 1-2; Edge, 15-16.

January 26 and February 2: The Colonial and Antebellum Periods

February 2: Field Trip TBD

Read from Harris, chapters 4-5; Twitty 3-4; Edge ____.

February 9 and 16: Researching the Origins

Read from Twitty chapters 5-7, 14-17; Harris 5; Edge ____.

February 23 and March 2: Freedom Movements

March 2: Field Trip TBD

Read from Twitty __, Harris chapter 9,

March 16 and 23: Cultural Rise

Twitty chapter 21, Edge 5-8, Harris 5-6

March 30 and April 6 Renaissance

Harris chapter 10, Twitty, 20, Edge chapter 9-14.

April 13 and 20: Looking Forward.

Additional select chapters TBA, field trips both of these dates.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

While I will not take attendance every class meeting day, we will have regular short in-class assignments that you may not make up. Moreover, quizzes and the final will cover both lectures and readings, and it is common for material in lecture not to come from readings. In short, if you miss class regularly, you will likely fail. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog - <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. Making up missed assignments will likewise be consistent with that policy.

During class, students are expected both to silence phones and to refrain from using them. Laptops may be used for taking notes or other activities directly related. to class, but honestly using a laptop rather than notebook to take notes will put you at a disadvantage. I will speak to this on day one.

Grading Policy

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	GPA equivalent
A	93-	4.0

A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	<60	0.00
E1	stopped attending	0.00
I	Incomplete	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scer/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Recording Lectures

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.