

Identity & Social Justice

Semester: Spring

Program: International and Comparative Studies (English track)

Instructor: Mathilde Debbiche

Total number of hours: 20 hours

ECTS: 5

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Considered as a biological human need linked to the survival of our species, food has often been a forgotten philosophical and sociological object.

Since Pierre Bourdieu, food is understood as a sociological fact of social distinction. We do not consume such food by taste or pleasure but because it allows us to be attached to our social class ; which is distinguished through a cultural, economic and social capital. Understood as a system of oppression, feminist philosophers have begun to denounce the sexist character of food.

Between GMOs, organic food, permaculture, agribusiness of the capitalist system, vegetarianism and veganism food is at the heart of political debates in our societies.

ASSESSMENT:

A 1500-2000 word essay in Times New Roman 12 format, 1.5 line spacing.

In this essay you must develop a theme related to the lesson, to take up the concepts presented, to develop your critical mind, and your research skills. You must write an introduction with a problematic, a development, a conclusion and a bibliography (citing your sources is very important).

COURSE CONTENT:

Lesson 1: Historicize Food. (02/03/2026)

Lesson 2 : Who are we eating ? (10/02/2026)

Lesson 3 : Women and veganism. (03/03/2026)

Lesson 4 : Healthy veganism in America and a West African Vegan Culinary. (03/10/2026)

Lesson 5 : Veganism as social object. An approach through logics of oppressions.
(03/17/2026)

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