



Spring 2019
WST3663– Section 05E3
T, 8-9, R 9; TUR 2333, 3 Credits
Gender and Food Politics
(3 credits)
Dr. Anita Anantharam

The act of eating is very political. You buy from the right people, you support the right network of farmers and suppliers who care about the land and what they put in the food. If we don't preserve the natural resources, you aren't going to have a sustainable society.

Alice Waters—owner of Chez Panisse Restaurant and the International Governor of the Slow Food Movement

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If there is one thing that is both culturally specific and truly open to global experience at the same time, it is food. Not only a basic necessity to sustain life, it is also the one thing that all humans and animals have in common: you need to eat to survive. Yet, each culture's attitudes towards food preparation and consumption, tell us a great deal about that society's socio-political organization and structure. Given that food (like people and cultural beliefs) travels across geographic boundaries, the politics of what we eat, where we eat it, and how we eat reflect deep-rooted gender, religious, racial, class, and national identities. By examining food historically and globally, we can see how these issues have developed over time and across cultures in relation to political, social and economic changes.

This class has a required service-learning component.