

Content Objectives for Introductory Unit

By the end of this introduction you should be able to describe:

1. the structure of this team-based learning course.
2. (a) the terminology used to analyze culture in this course &
(b) what to focus on when studying religion, culture & the sacred.
3. (a) the relationship between food culture & agriculture
(b) two modern authors' reasons for
investigating modern agriculture & food culture.

OVERVIEW OF READINGS

Primary Sources

- "Our National Eating Disorder" (TOD, 1-11)
- "Called Home" & "Stalking the Vegetannual" (AVM, 8-22, 63-69)

[TOD = *The Omnivore's Dilemma* | AVM = *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*]

--> **for terms marked with * consult these EB articles:**

“origins of agriculture” (1st five paragraphs)
& "Emergence of the Concept of the Sacred"

IMPORTANT: make sure that you *****use only the links embedded in the on-line schedule of readings***** to access the assigned EB (= “Encyclopedia Britannica” online) articles.

Going through the library's database page will probably lead you to different material, which will likely confuse you when preparing for TRAs.

STUDY GUIDE KEY:

RED = study questions for each section of the assigned source

GREEN = terms to study for the TRA

IMPORTANT:

*** = look in the relevant EB article linked to the on-line schedule for essential additional information about the term**

Course Structure & Team-Based Learning (TBL)

(a) in what ways do the policies for this course differ from what you are used to?

classroom etiquette
attendance

(b) what are the main assignments involved in TBL?

study guide
team readiness assessment (TRA)
application exercises for teams

Michael Pollan's Response to "Our National Eating Disorder" (TOD, 1-11)

culture eating food culture of food

(a) What does Pollan mean in referring to a "national eating disorder"? (p.1-3)

carbophobia French (or American?) paradox

(b) How does he apply the phrase "omnivore's dilemma" in a new way? (p.3-5)

Paul Rozin koala vs. rat vs. human

(b) What kind of investigation does Pollan conduct to consider that dilemma, & what themes "kept cropping up" during it? (p.5-11)

cooking food chains meals naturalist/ecology
agriculture* industry pastoral food chain nature
plant* animal* domestication* pleasure

Barbara Kingsolver's Move to Appalachia (AVM, 1-22, 63-69)

Locales & Practices

farm

farming

agriculture*

People:

Camille

Lily

Steven

Other Organisms:

animals*

plants*

vegetables

Key Ideas

culture

food culture

[the sacred*]

Barbara Kingsolver's Move to Appalachia (AVM, 1-22, 63-69)

(a) What features of life in Tucson, AZ led Kingsolver to feel “called home”? (p.1-7)

Steven farm ancestors food water Colorado River cultures
Hohokam & Pima cloud/rain/thunder cashier bad karma

(b) What practices and ideas supported her in committing her family to on a one-year cycle of local food culture in Virginia (p.7-13, 17-22)

diner/waitress city/urban vs. country/rural rain curse vs. praying for rain
grandparents dirt/soil food chain potato/carrot Malcolm tobacco
eating disorder Farm Bill farmer's markets calorie pleasures

(c) According to her, what are the methods and effects of industrial agriculture? (p.13-17)

industry corn & soybeans French Paradox diet

(d) What is a vegetannual and what part does it play in Kingsolver's year? (p.63-67)

(flowering) plants seeds leaves/flowers/fruits root season
watermelon debts spiritual arguments/reasons *locavore* Frostburg, MD

passages to locate and study in the primary source:

"One Saturday morning soon after he'd moved, he was standing on a farmer's porch at a country yard sale when a field of giant, pale weeds and tall pink flower spikes caught his eye. He asked the farmer the name of this gorgeous plant. The man grinned hugely and asked, 'You're not *from* here, are you, son?' That farmer is probably still telling the story..."

"Too tired to cook, we headed into town for supper....Our waitress was young and chatty, a student at the junior college nearby studying to be a nurse or else, if she doesn't pass the chemistry, a television broadcaster. She said she was looking forward to the weekend, but smiled broadly nevertheless at the clouds gathering over the hills outside."

"...I had to learn how to do some unfamiliar things, including hunting game and foraging for wild mushrooms and urban tree fruit. In doing so I was forced to confront some of the most elemental questions—and dilemmas—face by the human omnivore....The end result of this adventure was what I came to think of as the Perfect Meal, not because it turned out so well (though in my humble opinion it did), but because this labor-and thought-intensive dinner, enjoyed in the company of fellow foragers, gave me the opportunity, so rare in modern life, to eat in full consciousness of everything involved in feeding myself: For once, I was able to pay the full karmic price of a meal."

"Away went our little family, like rats leaping off the burning ship....We felt giddy and tragic as we pulled up at a little gas-and-go market.... Before we set off to seek our fortunes, we had to gas up of course, and buy snacks for the road. We did have a cooler in the back seat packed with respectable lunch fare. But we had more than two thousand miles to go. Before we crossed a few state lines, we had to give our car a salt treatment, and indulge in some things that go crunch."