

HIST 1037/AS 1007

Fall 2017

**FOOD AND FOODWAYS IN CHINA:
A Cultural History**

MW 2:30-3:55 PM, Sills 207

Managing Chef: General Zuo (Yes, same as “Tso”)
History and Asian Studies
101 38 College Street
Easily reached by email at lzuo@bowdoin.edu
Available for Office Hours Tuesday 3:30-5:30PM and by appointment

Contributing Chefs: All your brilliant selves

Cookbooks:

E. N. Anderson, *The Food of China*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.
ISBN-13: 978-0300047394

Rachel Laudan, *Cuisine and Empire: Cooking in World History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.
ISBN-13: 978-0520286313

Online Recipes:

In addition to the textbooks, we will read a selection of primary sources (in translation) and secondary scholarship throughout the semester. The readings are available on the Blackboard site in PDF format. Click on “PDF Readings” and you will find the files organized week by week.

Nutrition Information:

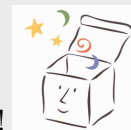
This class is a cultural history of what, when, why, and how people eat in China. Structured around four historical periods (antiquity, middle period, late imperial, and modern), the course explores the connections between food and agriculture, politics,

religion, health, technology, as well as social identities. On the one hand, we will examine foodways in China as cultural constructs and explore topics such as humans' experimentation, cultural appropriation, and value judgment of food. On the other hand, we will also discuss the material aspects of a culinary history, for instance, the biological facts and historical evolution of foodstuffs.

In correspondence with textual learning, this class will also provide you with opportunities to prepare and eat two meals, each of them designed to convey a broader sense of historical context. We will cook a Southern-Chinese peasant meal and taste American Chinese takeout together. The meals are scheduled on two Friday afternoons, November 17 and December 1 (not on regular class meeting days). Attendance at these meals is not mandatory, but you are strongly encouraged to participate for gaining additional context and experience.

This course is also designed to introduce you to college-level writing with step-by-step instructions. Upon successful completion of this class you will master the following skills:

- How to analyze a primary source
- How to craft a persuasive argument
- How to critique an argument made by others
- How to propose original research
- And eventually, how to write a research paper



For writing tips, check out the cool items in **PROF. Z'S TOOLKIT!**

Bon Appétit!