

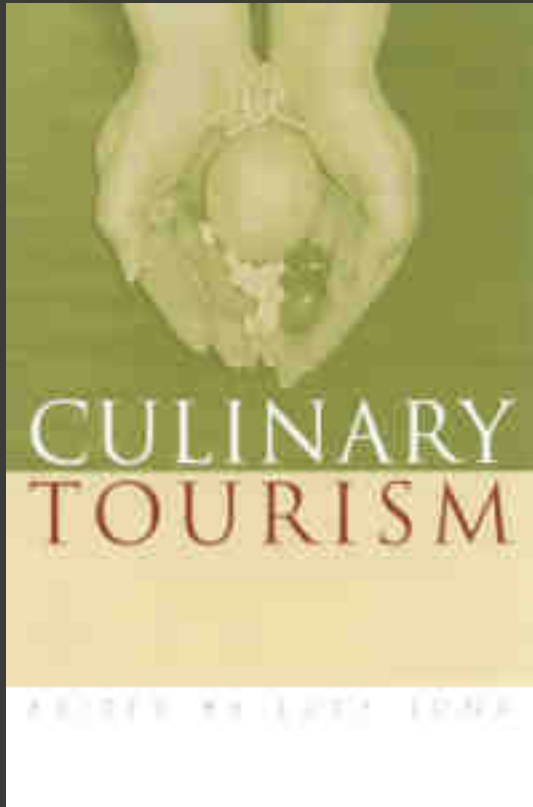
Ian Brodie

FOLK 267
FOOD AND CULTURE

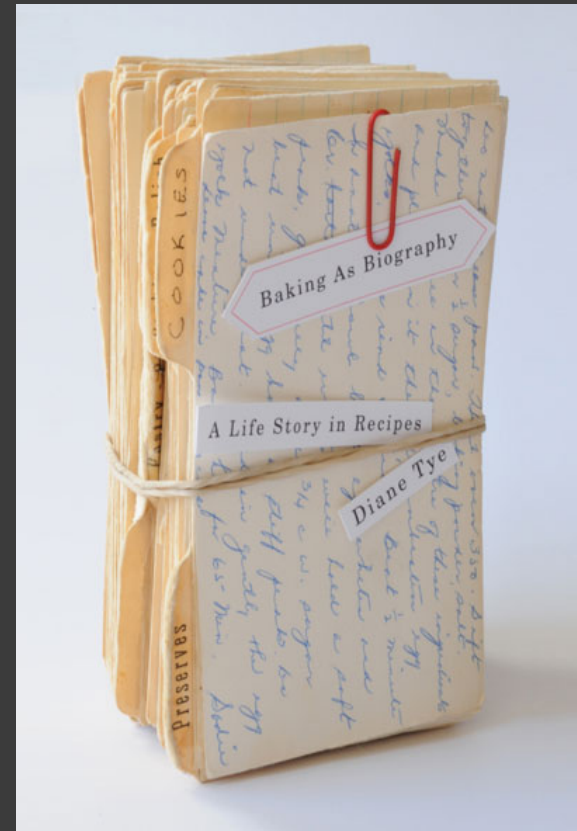
Stuff to know

- ⦿ The class is full: I can't sign in anyone else.
- ⦿ My office: CE 263-C
 - (around the corner, past the bathrooms, down that corridor, on the right hand side)
- ⦿ Office hours:
 - Monday to Thursday, 9-10am (or by appointment)
- ⦿ A web address to know
 - <http://tinyurl.com/folk267>

Books!



Lucy Long's Culinary
Tourism



Diane Tye's Baking as
Biography

Plus three online articles

- Adler, Thomas A. 1981. Making Pancakes on Sunday: The Male Cook in Family Tradition. *Western Folklore* 40.1: 45-54. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1499848>
 - Lloyd , Timothy Charles . 1981. The Cincinnati Chili Culinary Complex. *Western Folklore* 40.1: 28-40. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1499846>
 - Newton, Sarah E. 1992. "The Jell-O Syndrome": Investigating Popular Culture/Foodways. *Western Folklore* 51.3-4: 249-267. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1499775>
- ◉ These can be accessed directly from <http://tinyurl.com/folk267>.
 - ◉ It is best to access them directly from campus: otherwise, you'll have to log in through the library and search for them again. Save the PDF to a jump drive or something.

Evaluation

- ⦿ Research Assignment
 - February 17 25%*
- ⦿ Midterm Exam
 - March 1 15%*
- ⦿ Fieldwork Assignment
 - March 31 40%
- ⦿ Final Exam
 - TBD 20%

Question for the class

- ⦿ The dates for the first assignment and the exam are flexible: they can be switched, so:
 - Do you want to hand in the research assignment before reading week and write the exam after reading week?
 - or
 - Do you want to write the exam before reading week and hand in the research assignment after reading week?
- ⦿ If you want to think about it, we can wait until next week, but we need a decision soon.

Research Assignment

- ◎ 5-7 page essay, using library research illustrations from readings, lectures, and your own experience.
- ◎ The “What I Want from an Essay” handout will be distributed in the next few weeks, but for now
 - Standard essay format (introduction, body, conclusion)
 - Requires secondary sources and proper adherence to citation

Answer one of the following topics:

- ⦿ Take a quotidian food from your diet and discuss it according to where the constituent ingredients come from, how they are produced and processed, and through which channels they arrived at your Cape Breton dinner table.
- ⦿ Is there such a thing as 'Cape Breton' food? How does it differ from – and how is it similar to – the food of other regions? What makes it 'Cape Breton'?

Research Assignment topics

- ① Identify a food that you did not, could not, or would not eat in your past, and explain the processes by which it has entered your food repertoire. Conversely, identify a food that you do not, can not, or will not eat now and explain the processes of its exit.
- ① Identify a food that is 'necessary' for the proper observance of a custom (a ritual, a calendar custom, a rite of passage, etc.). Trace its origins both in a larger, historical context and in your own personal history.

Research Assignment topics

- ① Contrast a typical meal/food event that you may prepare for 'intimates' (friends, family) with one you may prepare for 'strangers' (important guests, potential romantic partners, etc.). What constitutes 'special occasion' food and why?

Fieldwork Assignment

- ① Conduct a short *ethnographic* survey of a food event
 - What is “fieldwork”? What does “ethnographic” mean?
- ① Using your ethnographic research *and* secondary sources, and the technical vocabulary developed in this course, describe and analyse the food event in a 5-7 page essay.
- ① **NOTE:** BHTM students may *not* use the “Evening of Food and Wine” as the site for their fieldwork project

Fieldwork Assignment examples

- ⦿ A critical restaurant review, describing the experience of going to a particular establishment that is framing a food experience for you.
- ⦿ Upcoming food-related holidays/observances (Robbie Burns' Night, Valentine's Day, Pancake Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day)
 - (Isn't Chinese New Year soon?)
- ⦿ Weddings, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Date Nights

Exams

- ⦿ Midterm on March 1st or February 17th (class vote)
 - Multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the readings and lectures to date (i.e. Long's Culinary Tourism)
- ⦿ Final during the exam period
 - Multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the readings and lectures since midterm (the articles from Western Folklore and Tye's Baking as Biography)
 - AND an essay question synthesizing materials from the entire semester

Why study food and culture?

- ⦿ Food is a basic requirement for human existence
 - We must eat
- ⦿ But what we eat, when we eat, how we eat, with whom we eat, are all cultural constructs
- ⦿ Before mass-transportation and trade, we were limited by available resources, so food is associated with place
- ⦿ Before storage (advanced storage), food spoiled, so food is associated with time

more...

- ⦿ Because cooking is a developed skill, it is passed down from elder to initiate, so food is associated with **tradition**
- ⦿ Because dietary laws are sometimes dictated through revelation (religious proscriptions), food is associated with **belief**
- ⦿ Because we need it to survive, food is associated with **corporeality**
- ⦿ Because food is expensive, food is associated with **hospitality**

Go away now.