This course examines the role food plays in shaping nationalist discourses and in eliciting responses regarding policy and action. As one of the understated yet powerful mediums in the creation and maintenance of collective identities, food sets the stage for nationalistic arguments to unfold and local actions to create global responses. Some of the questions we will ask are: How do collective food traditions emerge? How is nationalism performed through food practices? How do so-called “food wars” shape relations between countries? And, what is the role of food in shaping new identities in recent social movements? In order to answer these questions we will focus on case studies from different parts of the world; analyze food as political action through uprisings and protests, especially in the Mediterranean; and evaluate the role of international institutions in redefining national identity through food aid programs. Through projects and individual assignments, students will be able to analyze and interpret how discourse about food impacts group identification and the manner in which it shapes collective action.