HON-H 299 9413 Politics of What’s for Dinner, Honors Discussion
Christine Barbour
MW 4:00-5:15 p.m.
Tu 5:45-6:35 p.m.

HON-BN 299 consists of the following two classes: POLS-Y 200 (3 cr.) and HON-H 299 (1 cr.). To receive honors credit for this course, you MUST enroll in HON-BN 299. During the first week of classes, you will be dropped from HON-BN 299 and placed automatically into POLS-Y 200 and HON-H 299. Please note that the 1-credit HON-H 299 discussion section does NOT fulfill the HON-H course requirement for the General Honors Notation (GHN). For more information about the GHN, please visit the HHC web site.

Although our daily lives are organized around food, most of us, especially the fortunate few getting college educations in advanced western democracies, probably never think of it in political terms except in the narrowest of senses -- food stamp policy, perhaps, or farm subsidies. In truth, for human beings, food -- the control of our food supply and its distribution is power, and power is the essential stuff of politics. This course focuses on several aspects of the politics of food in contemporary America, including food and political identity (if we are what we eat - who are we?); politics and the American food industry (who designed that food pyramid, and why is government telling us what to eat anyway?); fast food culture and the Slow Food alternative (you want fries with that global controversy?), and the political implications of where our food comes from (what does what’s on your plate say about what’s in your future?). Class work will range from the creative (the keeping of individual food journals and the creation of a class cookbook) to the mundane (short papers, quizzes and exams) and will be appropriate for freshmen though seniors. There will be a substantial amount of reading, including fun stuff like Fast Food Nation and Michael Pollan’s excellent work, as well as academic studies by political scientists, anthropologists and sociologists. No pre-requisites except for a healthy appetite for learning about a familiar subject in an unfamiliar way. Students taking the class for Honors credit must register for H299. They will attend the regular Y200 class plus an additional hour of discussion section weekly led by the professor. H299 does not include any additional written work, but it does involve a 2 hour/week service learning component.