

# HUMN 3039 FOOD: A CULTURAL HISTORY

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102305

**Coordinator** Carol Liston ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Carol Liston/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Carol%20Liston/))

**Description** The modern world seems obsessed by food. This subject will look at the historical development of sources of food, from archaeological evidence of the earliest human meals through the emergence of agriculture and its scientific modifications to the physical and cultural evidence of technological changes in methods of preservation, preparation, cooking and eating various foods. Food is also integral to our social, religious and cultural lives and the subject will investigate the historical origins of some of these customs. Students will have the opportunity to range across time and place (through readings, recipes and field trips) to explore foods that are part of their cultural heritage - or feasts that they wish they could have eaten from centuries long past.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** History

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

## Restrictions

Successful completion of 60 credit points in the currently enrolled program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Identify a selection of places and objects relating to food production and eating in Australian history
2. Explain the historical and cultural significance of certain foods
3. Investigate the historical and cultural origins of a particular dish (recipe)
4. Construct an evidence based argument or narrative of the results of an investigation into the historical and cultural factors associated with particular foods.

## Subject Content

Content will include a selection from the following topics:

Archaeological evidence of food origins and cooking methods

Trade and wealth - salt, pepper, sugar, spices

Plants on the move

Keeping it longer - air dried to freeze dried

Pots, Pans and Microwaves

Fingers, forks or chopsticks

Indigenous Australian foods

Australian colonial eating

Portable foods ? take-aways ancient and modern

Rations - convicts, military and the home front

Food, health and healing

Religious practice and foods

Recipes, measurements and instruction manuals  
Class and custom - manners, etiquette and tradition  
Upstairs, downstairs - kitchens great and small  
Food Wars

## Assessment

### Summer

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Portfolio	4 exercises, total 800 words	30	N	Individual
Quizzes	8 quizzes, total 800 words	30	N	Individual
Report	2500 words	40	N	Individual

Teaching Periods