

Enrolment is now open for the new NPTEL SWAYAM Course

FOOD NARRATIVES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Food Studies is an interdisciplinary, inherently politicised field of scholarship, practice, and art that examines the relationship between food and all aspects of the human experience, including culture and biology, individuals and society, global pathways and local contexts. In this course, students will engage with critical texts by thinkers like Claude Lévi-Strauss, Roland Barthes, Mary Douglas, Arjun Appadurai, Dolly Kikon, and Pierre Bourdieu to understand food as both a system of signs and a social practice.

Topics include the kitchen as a space of care and control, food as a tool for sustaining diasporic identities, and its role in shaping national and cultural imaginaries. We also explore how food can symbolize desire, disgust, and sexuality, and its powerful visual appeal in the era of media and algorithms. Through selected poems, essays, fiction, films, and food media, the course encourages students to critically analyse the cultural, political, and emotional meanings of food in society.

Credit Points: 4
Duration: 12 Weeks

ENROL RIGHT AWAY!



Instructor

Dr. Gigy J. Alex

Associate Professor

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology



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| Start Date | 20 Jul 2026 |
| End Date | 09 Oct 2026 |
| Enrolment Closes | 27 Jul 2026 |



Join this exciting course! For more information, visit:

https://onlinecourses.nptel.ac.in/e-learning/preview/noc26_hs124