

Summer 2013 Anthropology Course

Fish and Ships: The Anthropology of Seafood



ANTH-A200 (3 CR, CRN12342)
6W2: 6/17/2013 - 07/26/2013
MTW 12:40-2:35pm
Student Building 138

Instructor: Shingo Hamada (hamadas@indiana.edu)

IUB GenEd S&H credit

COLL (CASE) S&H Breadth of Inquiry credit

This course explores the interplay of humans and seas through seafood production, circulation, and consumption. Anthropologists have studied economic systems (how to procure food) since the birth of the discipline. We know what herbivore and carnivore mean, but we do not consider piscivory as much. This class addresses this underrepresented field of food studies by examining seafood through various themes; social construction and anthropogenic "nature" of the seas; technologies and techniques of seafood procurement and preparation; socio-cultural and gastronomic importance of seafood; industrial and artisanal fisheries; fisheries resource conservation; and, the politics of seafood safety and security. No prior knowledge of these topics is necessary to take this course; we are learning together each week. This course consists primarily of lectures and discussions. Toward the end of the semester, we will discuss how to act as players in current seafood politics, practicing choices and contributing to the establishment of sustainable fisheries that will keep seafood cultures viable in the future to come.