

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FOOD



CLASS INFO

CLASS WEBSITE

- Canvas Address: <https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/49195>
 - Announcements
 - Syllabus
 - Course assignments
 - Readings
 - Quizzes

WEEKLY SECTION

- Friday “quiz” section
 - Attendance required
 - Discussion of week’s material
 - Quizzes
- Readings & Critical Questions **must be completed** by section on Friday!

COURSE MATERIALS

- iClicker unit or iClicker-Reef Polling app
- Two required books
- Online readings (check Canvas)
- Slides (check Canvas)

ELECTRONICS POLICY

- No laptops/cellphones unless I've given you explicit permission
 - Laptops/cellphones are generally too much of a distraction

EVALUATION

- Two Essays: 40%
- Midterm: 25%
- Quizzes (In sections): 15%
- Critical Questions (Canvas): 5%
- Participation: 15%

GROUP EXERCISE

- How do we know when something is a member of a kind?
 - Name one feature **required** to be a member of the following kinds:
 - President of the United States of America
 - Gold
 - Bachelor

- Name one feature that is **enough** to be a member of the following kinds:
 - President of the United States of America
 - Gold
 - Bachelor

DEFINITIONS

Necessary conditions

what is *required* for something to be the case.

Sufficient conditions

what is *enough* for something to be the case.

Definition

the **necessary** and **sufficient** conditions for the application of a term or concept. A proper definition should specify all and only the things satisfying the necessary and sufficient conditions

NATURAL KINDS

Natural Kind

a kind that corresponds to some grouping that reflects the structure of the natural world rather than the interests, actions, or practices of human beings

- Examples of natural kind terms:
 - “gold”
 - “water”

“FOOD” DEFINED?

Food

Any substance or stuff that can provide nutritional calories

FOOD & NUTRIENTS

Nutrient

a component or element of a food stuff that an organism needs in order to develop and/or survive

FOOD & ENERGY

Calorie

The amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of water 1 degree Celsius

DOES 'FOOD' PICK OUT A NATURAL KIND?

Food

Any substance or stuff that can provide nutritional calories

1. Does the proposed definition cover all the things we intuitively consider to *be* food?
2. Does the proposed definition exclude all the things we intuitively think are *not* food?

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Social Construction

Something is (at least partly) a social construction only if it is either brought into existence or specifically makes reference to “social” practices as opposed to “natural” causes or events

- Examples include
 - Artifacts (e.g. washing machines, smart phones)
 - Social position (e.g. husband/wife, king/queen)