**Pop Culture Explorations of Cuisine: (Chapter summary)**

Several television series provide opportunities to explore cuisine across cultures. Some take a more serious and informative approach, while others include more comedy.

One or more episodes can be assigned to students or viewed in class meetings. Specific clips also can be extracted for illustrations of course content. As these are explored, the following questions can be posed:

* What is depicted about cuisine in the clip or episode?
* What beliefs did you form about the culture in which this food or cuisine is consumed?
* What more do you want to know about this food or culture?
* In what way(s) are the foods or the cuisine depicted a culmination of multi-culturalism?
  + Discuss any historical events or context that explain the origins of the cuisine.
* What misconceptions may be formed from this show or clip?
  + If time allows, students can be asked to study more deeply cultural norms to determine errors or misinformation presented by the show or clip.
* Do shows like this help or harm cross-cultural relations and understanding,   
  especially as related to consumption?
* What universals or common characteristics exist in cuisines?

**Shows that work for this assignment include:**

* “Eater’s Guide to the World” hosted by Maya Rudolph (available on Hulu)
* “Uncharted” hosted by Gordon Ramsay (available on Disney+)
* “Street Food” (available on Netflix)
  + Season 1 – Asia
  + Season 2 – Latin America
* Christopher Kimball’s “Milk Street” (available via PBS)
* “Chef’s Table” (available on Netflix)
* “Taste the Nation” hosted by Padma Lakshmi (available on Hulu)
* “Taco Chronicles” (available on Netflix)
* “Salt Fat Acid Heat” hosted by Samin Nosrat (available on Netflix)