I know a lot of these intros are about "weathering the storm" of academia while a global pandemic rages on outside of our personal bubbles, BUT, this time around there's actually a light. For those of us who missed it, Rutgers recently announced that the Covid-19 vaccine will become a mandatory part of the immunization record required for attendance. Additionally, rumor has it that Rutgers is well underway on developing a student/faculty vaccination program as early as April. What this means is that maybe... finally, after two and a half semesters of virtual learning, we might finally share a physical space for learning again... And that's something to celebrate!

We aren't there yet, but like any good home stretch, do what you can to make it through (maybe even distract yourself with some events). Learn how to get the blood pumping within your home space by attending the upcoming Wellness Wednesday Presentation. Looking to work in the humanitarian sector (or the foreign service)? Make your next big career steps by attending the next of the UNMA Career Talk Series. Learn about othering, the sides built into modern-day society, and most importantly, how to break free from them by attending the next Scarlet Speakers Presentation. Jumpstart your medical journey: go sign up for Zoom With Dr. Paul Dicker before it closes. Join RU Newark professor, Salamishah Tillet, as she covers the challenges that arise when subsuming gender in racial allegory at her presentation, Centering Black Women and Femmes in Racial Justice. Learn about how skin-deep skin color really is at the upcoming anthropology keynote, The Biological Evolution of Skin Color and the History of a Racialized Trait. Help guide the next-gen of freshies by applying to be an SASHP Peer Mentor. Celebrate with the new Flavors of Rutgers Menu Item: Gujiya. Learn about what separates the good from the fantastic professors in remote academia by reading The Ten Commandments of Online Learning (Professor Edition).

Warm Regards,
Justin Confalone
Your newsletter editor
Wellness Wednesday Presentation

Ditch the covid-slump and continue on the journey to your best self by attending the upcoming Wellness Wednesday Presentation. This event will talk all about how to turn your home into a gym environment AND how to stay motivated in the face of a pandemic. Topics include working out in minimal space, using the equipment you have to get a pump on, and how to hit the entire body at once. This event takes place this Wed, Mar 31 at 5pm EST, register here.

UNMA Career Talk Service

Considering a career in NGO work, finance, law, international development, or diplomacy? Stop by the upcoming UNMA Career Talk. This event will feature four professionals partnered with the UN & Global Policy Studies (UNMA) department who will answer questions about their career and recommend next steps for prospective students. This event takes place Thurs, Apr 8 at 4pm EST. Registration can be found here.

Scarlet Speakers Presentation

Join RU Professor of Sociology, Paul McLean, as he hosts a VERY topical talk of Side-Directed Behavior: When Audiences are Crucial to Social Interaction. Professor McLean teaches courses on network analysis, sociological theory, and how the presence of an audience can be especially decisive within some social networks. Within the current political climate, some sociological thought might be necessary to understand how groups on the political spectrum act in relation to each other. This event takes place tomorrow, Mar 30 at 12pm EST. Register here.
Zoom With Dr. Paul Dicker
Join ‘88 alum, Dr. Paul Dicker, for our next Honors Alumni Night of the semester, on Wed, Apr 7 at 8pm EST. After Rutgers, Dr. Dicker attended NYU Medical School and completed residency at the NYU/Bellevue Medical Center. Today, he is a board member of Lifeline Medical Associations. Asking Dr. Dicker about his trials and tribulations will be incredibly beneficial for students pursuing a career in medicine. I’m told these events fill up quickly. RSVP here.

Centering Black Women and Femmes in Racial Justice
Join RU Newark Professor of African American Studies and Creative Writing, Salamishah Tillet, as she discusses Centering Black Women and Femmes in Racial Justice. This talk will examine the challenges of subsuming “gender” in service of racial allegory, and the ongoing violence and erasure that Black women and femmes continue to face, in social justice movements, as a result of the continued association of Blackness with masculinity today. Join the conversation this Thurs, Apr 1 at 4:30pm EST. Register here.

The Biological Evolution of Skin Color and the History of a Racialized Trait
This one comes from a related discipline to my own, so, while I might have a bias, this event looks fascinating. Join Penn State professor of anthropology Nina G. Jablonski as she explores how something as simple as skin pigmentation has led to so much conflict in the history of our world. By the end of this keynote presentation, Dr. Jablonski would like to show how knowledge of the evolution of skin color and of the historical development of color-based race concepts can aid in informing education and society. This event takes place this Fri, Apr 2 at 3:30pm EST. Register here.
Celebrate Holi with one of its signature sweets... Gujiya! Even if you don't personally observe this holiday, I've always believed that food transcends religious affiliation or personal beliefs. So go nuts and check out the recipe on the last page of this newsletter!

***Photo From themumsandbabies.com

New Blog Post: Life Through a More Cinematic Lens

"I miss movies. Plain and simple, no preamble, no post-script, no post-credit scene (you've been seen, my fellow watch-till-the-absolute-end-er's)," writes author Noa Deocampo, "And, let's be clear, I'm talking about the whole movie-watching experience, of which I must doubly emphasize the significance of it being an EXPERIENCE." Read the rest of this post here.

The Ten Commandments of Online Learning

"Thou shalt not assign homework without telling students about it. We are not constantly monitoring Canvas and surprise homework is way too common" is the first of ten rules made by students for teachers in our current learning environment. Read the rest on the next page!
The Ten Commandments of Online Learning (Professor Edition)

1. Thou shalt not assign homework without telling students about it. We are not constantly monitoring Canvas and surprise homework is way too common.

2. Thou shalt not assign homework more than twice a week. That's how often you would have been able to before the pandemic.

3. Thou shalt not assign homework due on weekends or breaks. That should be self-explanatory. Could you (or would you) do that before online learning? No.

4. Thou shalt not expect the students in the asynchronous section of your course to attend synchronous lectures. We signed up for the asynchronous class for a reason.

5. Thou shalt not, along the same lines, tell your synchronous class something about the homework in class and neglect to post the class recording until after the homework is due. Contrary to popular opinion, asynchronous students are not lazy, we may just have another class at the same time. (This goes for canceling midterms and not telling the asynchronous students as well.)

6. Thou shalt not disappear off the face of the earth and ignore student emails/contact. Again, self-explanatory but way too common.

7. Thou shalt not "Canvas dump". This is when professors post 100,000 files on Canvas without explaining which is which and what is required/supplemental, and then expect students to navigate the jungle to find their homework.

8. Thou shalt not host mandatory exams during a time slot other than your allotted lecture times. We have other classes. If your class is asynchronous you must provide multiple options for taking the exam on multiple different days. If not, then you must be flexible when students ask for accommodations.

9. Thou shalt not assign homework due any time other than 11:59 pm without a warning. We are imperfect human beings, and homework due at 11:59 pm has become unconscious standard practice. If you want your homework due at another time (during class, at 8pm, etc.) the least you can do is give us a heads up. The fun 'let's trick the students and see who is paying the most attention is, in fact, not fun.

10. Last but not least, thou shalt grade within a reasonable timespan. Reaching the week before grades are due and having not one single grade posted is unacceptable.
For the dough:
2 cups refined flour
1 cup clarified butter
Water (to mix)

For the filling:
1 cup khoya
1 cup sugar
1 tsp cardamom powder
1 tbsp almonds, finely chopped
Ghee (for deep-frying)

For the syrup:
1 cup sugar
1 cup water

Prepare the dough:
1. Rub 1/4 cup ghee into the flour and knead into a stiff dough with water.
2. Leave to rest for at least half an hour.

Prepare the filling:
1. Saute the khoya over medium heat till it looks slightly fried.
2. Take off the heat and when it cools, mix in the sugar, cardamom and almonds.
3. Shape the filling into ovals about palm-sized.
4. Make balls of the dough and roll out into 1 cm / 1/8 in thick rounds.
5. Take a round, wet the edges with water and place a piece of filling over one half.
6. Fold the other half over and press the edges together to seal.
7. Either cut off the edge with a fancy cutter or make a design by pinching and twisting all along the sealed edges.
8. Make all the gujiyas in this way. Heat ghee in a kadahi. To check if the ghee is hot enough put a piece of dough in it. If it comes up at once, add as many gujiyas as fit in comfortably.
9. Turn them over and lower the heat to medium. Fry till golden brown on all sides. Lift out and leave to drain on absorbent paper.
10. Make sugar syrup by cooking water and sugar together, till one thread consistency.
11. Dip the gujiyas in it, lift and let dry on a wire rack.
12. Repeat until all dough is fried, cool, then serve.