

ENG 115
EATING THE OTHER

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In this class we explore the ways that food refracts, reflects, and transforms the ways that we relate to each other and ourselves as social beings. In particular we are interested in examining food and eating as modes or expressing, confirming and challenging social difference.

Course Expectations and Policies:

These are the assignments that you will be expected to complete during the semester. **I will only accept papers electronically.** This policy, and in fact all policies, may change during the semester.

All assignments are due **on the day and at the time** that has been assigned. After that, **late assignments will be penalized a third of a grade a day** (thus, an A+ will become an A etc), including each weekend day. I will take your commitment, effort and participation in this course into account when it comes to determining final grades. **Final grades are not negotiable.**

Grade Breakdown

- Blog, Attendance and Participation - 20%
- Short Paper - 25%
- Presentations (with handout) - 15%
- Final Essay Draft - 15%
- Final Essay - 25%

Blog, Attendance and Participation - 20%

We will be producing a food blog together for the class; your participation on the blog will constitute part of your participation grade. More on this once I know how many people are in the class.

This class will operate only through your consistent attendance and sustained participation in class. It is

imperative therefore that you read the assigned texts for each week, and contribute to class discussions in a spirit of constructive and engaging dialogue. More than one unexcused absence will result in a lower grade. Most weeks have heavy reading - organize your time accordingly. NB: Attending and being prepared for your final paper conference is counted in the participation grade.

A note on class citizenship: In this class we discuss the politics of race, gender and other nodes of identity. At times these can be difficult and loaded conversations because people feel strongly about these issues. Therefore let me say that I expect all of us to speak to each other with kindness and respect; this includes me, your teacher. You should offer your ideas to the class with the expectation that you, and they, may be challenged. In this class we are each mutually invested in the project of exploring ideas, of pushing ourselves to think harder about new ideas, and thus we aim for empathy, mutual respect and intellectual rigor. Disagreement is useful when the different sides of a topic sincerely want to understand the other, even if they never find common ground.

What will not be rewarded is silence; I understand that some of you may be shy or worried about participating in class and I have thought long and hard about whether to push such people to talk or not. I have decided that each of us are equally responsible for the work and energy that we bring to the classroom and that while I will take shyness into account, each of you are responsible for contributing ideas. Don't be stingy! We want to hear from you!

Short Paper- 25%

There will be a short paper due before the Fall Break. Please choose and follow one citation style consistently. Make sure your pages are numbered and that your name is on the front page. Have a snappy title. Staple the upper left-hand corner. Always include a works cited page. Always double space. Always use Times New Roman 12 font. I will be pulling out a ruler and checking! **All assignments will be graded for spelling and grammar as well as clarity of argumentation.**

In-class presentations- 15%

This is a panel presentation of three to four people, each offering a short paper of about 7.5 minutes or 750 words. In that paper, you will offer an opinion, a reading, an insight into one of the texts we are discussing that week. The panelists should decide on a issue, theme or question for their panel and then coordinate the three or four different papers that speak to that issue, theme or question. Some tips: rehearse your paper to make sure you don't go over; speak slowly and clearly, and most of all: **make sure your paper has an argument.** You should be staking a position on an issue by offering a critique of a text, applying an analysis, or displaying the text's strength and limitations.

Final Essay Draft - 15%

Final Essay - 25%

You will propose your final essay topic, which we will develop together. We will have a one-on-one conference to discuss your final paper topic, and I will read a draft and give you early feedback. The final paper is up to fifteen pages long. The draft should be no less than ten.

Alternately, if you feel you have a super-duper brilliant project idea that isn't a paper, we can talk about it. But it will need to demonstrably worth 40% of your grade.

Texts

The following books have been ordered by Huntley; I will also provide various short readings that will either be doled out a few weeks in advance or put into a reader, I haven't decided yet.

Fannie Hurst, Imitation of Life, ISBN: 978-0822333241

Barbara Kingsolver, Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: A Year of Food Life, ISBN: 978-0060852559

John Lancaster, The Debt to Pleasure, ISBN: 978-0312420369

Sara Roahen, Gumbo Tales: Finding My Place at the New Orleans Table, ISBN: 978-0393061673

Upton Sinclair, The Jungle. ISBN: 978-0743487627

J. M. Coetzee, The Lives of Animals. ISBN: 978-0691070896

Debra Ginsberg, Waiting. ISBN: 978-0060932817

Ruth L. Ozeki, My Year of Meats: 014-0280464

September 3rd, 2008 - Week One: Method (the stuff that's good for you)

Roland Barthes, "Toward A Psychosociology of Contemporary Food Consumption"

Klein, Roxanne and Charlie Trotter. "Raw Food,"

Introduction to Raw: The Cookbook.

Jeffrey Steingarten, "Why Doesn't Everybody in China Have A Headache?" and "Cheese Crise."

Elsbeth Probyn, Chapter One: "Bodies That Eat," from Carnal Appetites: Food Sex Identities

Betty Fussell, "On Murdering Eels and Laundering Swine."

September 10th, 2008 - Week Two: Identity and Food in the Americas

Que Vivan Los Tamales, Introduction, Chapters One Through Four."

Sylvester Graham, Bread and Bread Making

E. Melanie DuPuis, Nature's Perfect Food: How Milk Became America's Drink, Introduction, Chapters One through Three

September 17th, 2008 - Week Three: No-one's in the Kitchen with Dinah

Forson, Chapters 2 and 3

Imitation of Life, Fannie Hurst

Chapter Four, Uncle Tom's Cabin

Doris Witt, Black Hunger: Food and the Politics of U.S.

Identity, chapter one: pp. 21-53

September 24th, 2008 - Week Four: Food and (More) Immigrant Identity/ies

Big Night

Hasia Diner, Hungering for America, Intro, Chapters 1-3

Harris-Shapiro, Carol (2006) 'Bloody Shankbones and Braided Bread: The Food Voice and the Fashioning of American Jewish Identities', Food and Foodways, 14:2, 67 - 90

October 1st, 2008 - Week Five: Food and Place

Trubek, Amy. A Taste of Place: A Cultural Journey into Terroir. Berkeley: UC Press. 2008. Chapter One.

Barbara Kingsolver, Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: A Year of Food Life

October 8th, 2008 - Week Six: Food and Bodies: The Grotesque

Miller, Anatomy of Disgust, chapters 5 and 6

Rabelais, chapters 6 and 7
The Nutty Professor, Eddie Murphy
Chapter Four, Uncle Tom's Cabin

October 15th, 2008 - Week Seven: Food Culture, Distinction and Eating Out

Parkhurst Ferguson, Priscilla. Accounting for Taste: The Triumph of French Cuisine. Chapter Two: Inventing French Cuisine.

John Lancaster, The Debt to Pleasure

October 22nd, 2008 - Week Eight: Travel and the Authentic Gumbo Tales

Frow, John. "Tourism and the Semiotics of Nostalgia."

Lisa Heldke, "Let's Cook Thai: Recipes for Colonialism." In Food and Culture: A Reader. New York: Routledge. 2008.

October 29th, 2008 - Guest Teacher

November 5th, 2008 - Week Ten: Animals and the Politics of Meat

Coetzee, The Lives of Animals, plus responses from Marjorie Garber, Peter Singer, Wendy Doniger and Barbara Smuts.
Film: Ratatouille

November 12th, 2008 - Week Eleven: Food Labor

Schlosser, Eric. Fast Food Nation: What the All American Meal Is Doing to the World. New York: Penguin Books, 2001.
Chapter 8: "The Most Dangerous Job."
Sinclair, Upton. The Jungle. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 1995 [1906].

November 19th, 2008 - Week Twelve: Food Labor, continued

Waiting, Debra Ginsberg
Barbara Ehrenreich, extract from Nickel and Dime

November 26th, 2008 - Thanksgiving Break - No Class

December 3rd, 2008 -- Week Fourteen: Food and Silence

Salt, Monique Truong
Extract from Alice B. Toklas cookbook (to be distributed later)

December 10th, 2008 -- Week Fifteen

Ruth L. Ozeki, My Year of Meats