

Writing 2222 F 001 Special Topic: Creative Writing: Food Writing
The University of Western Ontario

Course Outline

Wednesdays 6pm – 9pm

Classroom: UCC Room 53

Instructor: Melanie Chambers - mchambe4@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays - 12:00-2:00pm or by appointment

Office Location: Lawson Hall Room 3270

Course description:

In the novel, *Like Water for Chocolate*, Mexican author Laura Esquivel reveals the powerful force of food to educate, and sway emotions, culture and life. Such is the thrust behind good food writing. Food writing is part memoir, history, reporting, biography and narrative. This course will teach students how to write these various genres while emphasising the trends (slow food, organics, local), politics (trans fats, genetically modified food) and culture of food. Students will also develop specific research methods to understand the history and future of our food systems.

Text: *Best Food Writing 2008*. Edited by Holly Hughes.

WORKSHOPPING: We will be using the group workshoping process to discuss writing assignments throughout this course. I will outline workshop etiquette and expect everyone to act with courtesy and professionalism.

Attendance policy: Attendance in this class is mandatory. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late, it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are not marked as absent by seeing me after class. Each missed class without proper documentation will reduce your final grade by 2%. Likewise, should you arrive late, each 20 minutes is the equivalent of an hour's absence. Please arrive on time. Assignments should be submitted in class, or electronically if necessary. DO NOT slide them under my office door. Late assignments will be penalized at 3% per day, including weekends.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER December 6, 2013. OUTSTANDING WORK AS OF THIS DATE WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 0.

Medical Accommodation Policy: For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading). Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication, and the Program requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other)

grounds. Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation.

Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty. Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an ‘Attendance’ policy in the course). **All** medical documentation **must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s home Faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 85 or more in Writing 1000F/G, or c) Special Permission of the Program.

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Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that I do not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.

Plagiarism policy: Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where

appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Assignments and due dates

First date is first draft due for workshoping in class. Second date is final due date.

1.Memoir	September 25/October 2	15%
2.Food study—magazine piece	Oct 16/Oct 23	15%
3.Restaurant review	Nov 13	15%
4.Food trends presentation	Sign up	10%
5.Recipe Headnote	Oct 30/Nov 6	15%
6.Profile of farmer/chef	Nov 20/Nov 27	15%
7.Participation workshop/ reading quizzes (2)	TBA	15%

Weekly lectures and readings

September 11

CLASS ONE

Lecture: The Meaning of Food

Watch: Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations

September 18

CLASS TWO

Lecture: memoir writing and describing food

READINGS: *MFK Fisher handout webct*

In A '64 T-Bird, Chasing A Date With a Clam, page 73, Panacea, page 365

Assignment: memoir

September 25

CLASS THREE

Lecture: Food trends/new ingredients/food movements

—*sign up presentations*

Workshop memoir

READINGS: *Three Chopsticks*, page 56, web site trends, top 10s

October 2

CLASS FOUR

Lecture: reporting about food

Watch FOOD INC.

READINGS: *Lost Foods Reclaimed* page 277, *In Defence of Food*, page 2, *The other white meat*, page 25.

***Bring in newspaper or magazine article about food making health claim**

DUE: Memoir

October 9

CLASS FIVE

Lecture: The History of food writers and writing

READINGS: Brillat-Savarin, M.F.K. Fisher, James Chatto, Calvin Trillin

October 16

CLASS SIX

Lecture: Guest Speaker Jill Wilcox – recipe writing and cookbooks

Workshop Food Study

READINGS: Jamie Oliver, Julia Child handouts. *Summer Express*, page 250, *Art of the Biscuit*, page 241, *Slow Cooking*, page 233.

Assignment: recipe

October 23

CLASS SEVEN

Lecture: Beverages. Chocolate tasting with guest speaker Kelly Nemeth

READINGS: Wine: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/food-and-wine/wine/for-ross-take-a-walk-on-the-dry-side/article4198322/>

Due: Food study

October 30

CLASS EIGHT

Lecture: profiling the chef or farmer

READINGS: *Someone's in the kitchen with Daniel*, page 154, *Welcome to Dante's Inferno*, page 196, and *The Saucier's Apprentice*, page 226.

Assignment: profile a farmer/chef

Workshop: Recipe headnote

November 6

CLASS NINE

Lecture: Restaurant Review

DUE: recipe

READINGS: *Ruth Reichl, Joanna Kates, NYTimes reviewers online*

November 13

CLASS TEN

VISIT RESTAURANT AND WRITE REVIEW SAME NIGHT – DUE before 12

READINGS: online article about Canadian Food Identity

November 20

CLASS ELEVEN

Lecture: Canadian Food Identity

Workshop: profiles

November 27

CLASS TWELVE

Lecture: fiction and food

READINGS: *Taste*, by Roald Dahl **online**

DUE: profiles

December 4

CLASS THIRTEEN

Profiles returned. Wrap up
