

Western University
Department of English and Writing Studies, Winter 2016
English 4220G: Reading Food in Early Modern Literature
Thursdays, 9:30-12:30, AH 101

Instructor: Dr. Madeline Bassnett

Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 85827

Office: AHB 3G02

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-1:30, or by appointment

Email: m.bassnett@uwo.ca

Course Prerequisites: Two of English 2200F/G, English 2210F/G, English 2220F/G, English 2230F/G, 2235A/B, English 2240F/G or 2250F/G.

Restricted to Year 4 students in an Honors Specialization module. Students are limited to no more than 1.0 full course equivalent (or two half-courses) at the 4000 level.

Course Description:

Like us, the early moderns were fascinated with food. In this course, we'll look at how the drama, poetry, and prose of the period addressed the topic through depictions of hospitality and gift-giving, foreign trade, travel, and local cultivation, cooking and feasting. Approaching food through a variety of perspectives, we'll examine how it intersects with the discourses of gender, class, nation, and just plain pleasure.

Course Objectives:

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss key topics in early modern food studies.
2. Engage critically and creatively with canonical and non-canonical early modern literature.
3. Examine historical and critical secondary sources and use these sources to analyse, understand, and approach the topic of food in early modern literature.
4. Develop and demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills through close reading and discussion.
5. Evaluate secondary criticism and integrate it into their own arguments.
6. Write lucid, effective, and argumentative essays.
7. Discover connections between the past and present.

Required Texts:

4220G Coursepack (M11321)

William Shakespeare: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Titus Andronicus*

If you already have editions of these plays, you may use them (but please make sure they are academic editions: i.e. include notes). I've ordered cheap and cheerful Folger Library editions for this course.

Course Requirements

Participation	20%
Mini-papers (2)	20% Due Jan. 21st and March 3rd
Food Commonplace Book	20% Due March 24th
Final Essay Proposal and Bibliography	5% Due March 17th
Final Essay	35% Due April 6th
	100%

Participation 20%: I expect everyone to have read and thought about the weekly readings and to come prepared to discuss and examine both primary and secondary texts in detail. Bring your textbook(s) and weekly reading response (see below) to each class, and be willing and ready to contribute your ideas.

Note: Attendance is mandatory! Repeated absences (i.e. more than 3 missed classes without legitimate medical or personal reasons for academic accommodation) means that you will forfeit this portion of your grade.

Mini-papers 20% (10% each): You will write two short papers of approximately 1000 words. The first is **due January 21st**, and will be a response to the Museum London exhibition. The second is **due March 3rd**, and will be a reflection paper on the practice and theory of cookery. You'll be reading the second paper in class on the 3rd and then handing it in at the end of class. I'll give you a handout with more details about both assignments.

Food Commonplace Book 20%: Due March 24th.

Educated early moderns often kept commonplace books: a miscellany of quotes, financial accounts, sermons, recipes, and other interesting things. Your commonplace book will, I hope, reflect such miscellany, and will follow the basic guidelines below.

You must include:

1. Brief responses (**no more than 500 words**) to weekly reading questions. These are not essays, so no introduction/conclusion is required. Please write in grammatical sentences (these matter). I'll ask you to read/discuss these responses in class.

Also aim to include some or all of the following:

1. An occasional food log. What do you eat? What are your eating habits, rituals, and practices? How might your food log contribute to a further understanding of the concepts, theories, and literary imaginings that we're discussing in class? Point-form notes are acceptable.

2. Collect food reportage: cut articles out of the paper/follow an online journal, follow a food blog, listen to/watch documentaries, etc. Jot down interesting ideas to contribute to the class. Can we build a collective sense of comparison between ourselves and the early moderns? Point-form notes are acceptable.

3. You may include anything else you feel is relevant to the course.

Final Paper Proposal and Bibliography 5%: Due March 17th. Write a short paragraph outlining the text(s) you plan to work on, and the research question(s) you hope to answer (250-500 words). Include a bibliography of at least 10 sources that you plan to use in the writing of your paper. I will return these with comments on the 24th.

Note: We will have a group brainstorming session on Feb. 25th to help generate essay ideas.

Final Paper 35%: Due April 6th, last day of classes. This is a research paper, and I expect you to have consulted and **used** at least 10 secondary sources in your essay. These may include readings from the syllabus, but do not include the primary text(s). The paper should be 12-15 pages long, and will explore a topic of your choosing in relation to one or two primary texts we've discussed in class. I encourage you all to discuss your ideas, proposals, and questions with me in advance of handing in the paper.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 7: Introduction

- ▶ *Supsizers Go... Elizabethan* (in-class screening)

Jan. 14: Food, Art, and History

- ▶ **Visit Food Exhibits at Museum London** (independent visit) Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 12-5; Thursday 12-9. Closed Monday. Located at 421 Ridout St. North, at the intersection of Dundas and Ridout.
- ▶ Warren Belasco, "Why Study Food?" and "Identity: Are We What We Eat?"
- ▶ William Harrison, "Of the Food and Diet of the English."

Jan. 21: Country House Hospitality

- ▶ Ben Jonson, "Inviting a Friend to Supper," "To Penshurst," "To Sir Robert Wroth," "The Praises of Country Life."
- ▶ Robert Herrick, "A Country Life: To his Brother, M. Tho. Herrick," "The Hock-Cart, or Harvest Home," "A Panegerick to Sir Lewis Pemberton," "The Country Life, to the Honoured M. End. Porter," "The Invitation," "Happinesse to hospitality," "A Thanksgiving to God, for his House."
- ▶ Michael Schoenfeldt, "'The Mysteries of Manners, Armes, and Arts': 'Inviting a Friend to Supper' and 'To Penshurst.'"
- ▶ **Museum London mini-paper due**

Jan. 28: Food, Class, and Nation

- ▶ Thomas Deloney, *Jack of Newbury*, Ch. 1-4, 8, 10.
- ▶ Joan Thirsk, "Regional and Social Patterns of Diet."
- ▶ Ken Albala, "Food and Nation."

Feb. 4: Dinner and Desire

- ▶ William Shakespeare, *Comedy of Errors*.
- ▶ Joseph Candido, "Dining out in Ephesus: Food in *The Comedy of Errors*."

Feb. 11: Food and Gender

- ▶ Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, from *Poems and Fancies*, AND from *Sociable Letters* #32, 47, 55, 154, 160, 199
- ▶ Katharine Capshaw Smith, "'Bisket of Love, which crumbles all away': The Failure of Domestic Metaphor in Margaret Cavendish's Poetic Fancies."

Feb. 18: Reading Week

Feb. 25: Reading Recipes

- ▶ Hannah Woolley, *The Queen-like Closet, or Rich Cabinet*. (Access on EEBO: you may bring laptops to this class (only) so you can read this electronically).
- ▶ Julia Reinhard Lupton, “Thinking with things: Hannah Woolley to Hannah Arendt.”
- ▶ *Final Essay Brainstorming Session*

Mar. 3: Theory and Practice of Historical Cooking: Potluck

- ▶ **Bring a historical dish and your reflection paper.**
- ▶ Luce Giard, “Gesture Sequences.”
- ▶ Ken Albala, “Cooking as Research Methodology: Experiments in Renaissance Cuisine.”

Mar. 10: Eating People

- ▶ William Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*.
- ▶ David Goldstein, “The cook and the cannibal: *Titus Andronicus* and New World eating.”

Mar. 17: Edenic Hospitality

- ▶ John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 4-5.
- ▶ Amy Tigner, “Eating with Eve.”
- ▶ **Final Essay Proposal/Bibliography due**

Mar. 24: Forbidden Food

- ▶ John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 9-10.
- ▶ Robert Appelbaum, “Eve’s and Adam’s ‘Apple’: Horticulture, Taste, and the Flesh of the Forbidden Fruit in *Paradise Lost*.”
- ▶ **Food Commonplace Book Due**

Mar. 31: Class Cancelled (conference): Work on final papers

April 6: Final essays due. Please deliver to the English Department dropbox, outside AHB 2G02. If you would like your essay returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope that I can drop in the mail.

There is no final exam.

The Fine Print

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>.

The full policy is set out here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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.

The Academic Counselling Office for Arts and Humanities is located in IGAB 1N20.

I will not grant any requests for extensions unless I have approval from Academic Counselling.

Technology Use

Please keep the classroom technology free. Put away all laptops, iPads, cellphones, and other gadgets. If you have legitimate need for any of these items, please discuss your situation with me at the beginning of term.

Email

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday, and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. If you don't hear back from me within a reasonable period, assume your email has gone astray and email me again. Please do not expect an immediate response from me on weekends.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments are due in class unless otherwise noted. You may submit late assignments to the dropbox outside the Department of English main office (AHB 2G02), where they will be date- and time-stamped.

Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date. This also applies to essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. Monday, which will be stamped with Friday's date.

Please do not put any assignments under office doors.

Please remember that the Department will not accept assignments by fax or email. If necessary, and by prior arrangement only, assignments may be sent to me at the Department by post or courier.

Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.

Late Assignments

If you submit a paper after the due date, but within two weeks of this date, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late. The arrangement for date-stamping essays (identified above) still applies.
4. Papers will not be accepted if submitted more than two weeks after the due date unless accommodation has been granted.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes:

1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

The Senate statement on plagiarism is as follows:

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage 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.” (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)

Plagiarism checking: “The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.”

When in doubt, cite your sources and/or check with me.