

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Early Modern Food from Shakespeare to Milton**  
**English 4320F (001)**

Fall 2021

*Western University is located on the lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee,  
Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples.*

**Instructor:** Dr. Madeline Bassnett  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext. 85827  
**Office:** UC 3431  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 10-1 and  
by appointment

**Email:** [m.bassnett@uwo.ca](mailto:m.bassnett@uwo.ca)  
**Course Location:** UC 4401  
**Course Day/Time:** Thursday 1:30-4:30  
**Delivery Type:** In person

**Prerequisites:** 1.0 from English 3000-3999 or permission of the Department.

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.

Course Description

Food is part of our everyday lives, but how is it represented in literature, theory, and practice? This course opens up the exciting field of food studies through the lens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. We'll take a new look at some familiar texts, such as Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, with its final scene of unwitting cannibalism, and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, with its depiction of a world destroyed by an act of eating. But we'll also consider lesser-known material, such as Margaret Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies*, in which death is likened to a cook, and Hannah Woolley's popular recipe book, *The Queen-Like Closet*. Addressing topics such as gender and class, colonialism and localism, we'll also do some cooking and make a visit to the Western Archives.

**Objectives:**

- Learn about the field of early modern food studies
- Engage critically and creatively with canonical and non-canonical literature through discussion, writing, and practice
- Explore relationships between historical context, literary criticism, theory, and practice
- Discover connections between the past and present
- Become acquainted with archival research
- Approach critical analysis through both academic and personal/experiential perspectives
- Develop effective arguments through a combination of close reading and independent research
- Evaluate and integrate secondary criticism into your own arguments
- Communicate with clarity, respect, and care in class discussions and written work

### Course Ethos

Our class will honour the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We will use each other's preferred and chosen names and pronouns; we will engage in respectful and generous conversation with each other; we will avoid language that is hurtful, violent, or exclusive. We will also acknowledge that we may make mistakes, and that learning from each other and questioning ourselves is part of the EDI process.

### Required Course Materials

**Available at the bookstore, with online alternatives listed below**

**Thomas Deloney**, *Jack of Newbury*, Broadview Press

**Robert Greene**, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*. University of Nebraska Press (preferable)

Two online versions. They aren't ideal, but they'll do the job.

<http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/greene2.html>

<http://elizabethandrama.org/the-playwrights/robert-greene/friar-bacon-friar-bungay/>

**William Shakespeare**, *Titus Andronicus* (any hard copy edition is fine; also see the Internet Shakespeare, Folger editions online)

**John Milton**, *Paradise Lost* (any edition; we're focusing on Books 4-5 and 9-10; online editions fine as well)

**Secondary and selected primary readings available on OWL or EEBO (Early English Books Online).**

**NOTE:** I've downloaded EEBO texts to OWL for you (these will be listed as OWL/EEBO). I'd encourage you to explore EEBO, nonetheless.

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Participation: 20%

Seminar: 20%

Cooking mini-paper: 15%

Archives response 5%

Food security mini-paper: 10%

Proposal: 5%

Final Paper: 25%

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### Additional Information

#### **Email**

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday, and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not expect an immediate response from me on weekends.

#### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments will be submitted through the OWL Assignments tab.

**Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.**

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds,

or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

For the **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

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.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.