

Western University
Department of English and Writing Studies

English 9185: Early Modern Food from Shakespeare to Milton
Spring/Summer 2020

Instructor: Dr. Madeline Bassnett

Time: Tuesday and Friday 10-12

Office Hours: Zoom meetings by appointment

Place: Zoom

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Course Description

Today, food reflects ethical, cultural, and spiritual identities, reveals political attitudes, and inspires emotions of delight and disgust. But we aren't the first to be obsessed by food and its discourses. Early modern English writers likewise used the language of nourishment to define religious and national identities, to assert and resist hierarchies of class and gender through practices such as hospitality and gift-giving, and to examine topics such as pleasure, sustainability, and the fear of and desire for the unknown. In looking at food, this class aims to introduce a rich and growing field of research that is open to a wide range of historical, theoretical, and critical exploration. We will take a new look at 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 will also consider lesser-known material, such as Margaret Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies*, in which death is likened to a cook, and Elizabeth Clinton's *Countesse of Lincolnes Nurserie*, a pamphlet advocating the primal work of maternal breastfeeding. As well, we'll examine the recipe book—a genre central to early modern food studies—to discuss theories and practices of cookery, do some cooking, and make a virtual visit to an archive.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

- Experience the field of early modern food studies
- Integrate theory and practice
- Further develop research and presentation skills
- Engage closely with primary and secondary texts
- Initiate and pursue discussions
- Write in a variety of forms
- Investigate archival material

Texts

Thomas Deloney, *Jack of Newbury*, Broadview (preferable)

Online, original spelling edition:

http://catalog.lambertvillelibrary.org/texts/English/deloney/jack/jack_of_newbury.htm

Robert Greene, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*. University of Nebraska Press (preferable: available used; other hard copy editions are fine).

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

NOTE 2: Due to the speed of the lockdown, I had to scan material more quickly than I'd have liked. Because I hastily scanned the material in packages rather than individually, you'll find that in some cases, there may be more material in the packages than you'll need.

To minimize confusion: please follow the class schedule for readings. I've clearly indicated what I'm expecting you to read, and if items aren't listed on the class schedule, then they're not required reading. You can consider them as "extras." You're welcome to read the "extras" if you want, and they might be useful for your seminars and final papers.

Don't hesitate to let me know if you need me to clarify anything.

Evaluation

Participation: 10%

Seminar: 15%

Online seminar responses: 10% (for 8 responses)

Mini-papers (4): 35%

Final Paper: 30%

Participation 10%

This grade evaluates ongoing participation in class discussions taking place over Zoom. A seminar class depends on everyone's informed and engaged input. When reading, take notes, record questions, and come prepared to discuss and examine both primary and secondary texts in detail. Note-taking is especially important when reading digital texts!

NOTE: Zoom discussions are a mandatory part of the class. Repeated absences (i.e., more than 2 missed classes without legitimate medical or personal reasons) means that you will forfeit this portion of your grade. Please talk to me if you're having technical difficulties that are preventing you from fully participating.

Seminar Presentation 15%

Due Date: Sign up

Each of you will sign up for one seminar presentation. This should be 20 minutes long, and should be presented as a narrated PowerPoint. Please post these online by noon the day before our Zoom meetings (i.e. Monday at noon, except week of May 18 (see below); Thursday at noon).

For the seminar, plan to present initial research (e.g. provide critical overviews, theoretical frameworks) and pursue a focused analysis in order to suggest/try out and work through an initial argument. All seminars must end with a slide containing three questions for the class to respond to.

Your three questions might try to get the class to assess or further your arguments and suggestions; they might address topics you didn't have time to discuss during your presentation.

Guidelines for the narrated PowerPoint to come.

Online Seminar Responses 10% (for 8 responses)

After watching/listening to posted seminars, please post a short response to one of the questions asked by the presenter. Your responses may build on/respond to earlier posts, or they can stand on their own. Response posts must be completed by midnight on Monday and Thursday. This will give me time to read the responses and use them to deepen our discussions on Tuesday and Friday.

Guidelines for posting responses to come.

NOTE: You do not have to post a response if you're presenting a Secondary Source mini-paper.

NOTE: On days with two seminars, you only have to respond to one. You will be expected to have listened to both.

Mini-papers (4) 35%

These will be submitted through OWL before the Zoom meeting, and will be presented to the class (read verbatim, or presented as a synopsis) during our meeting, with the exception of the Final Paper Proposal. Please see separate Mini-paper Guidelines for detailed instructions.

1. Historical cooking mini-paper (and your dish) 10% (approx. 1000 words)

Due Date: June 2

2. Secondary source summary and evaluation 10% (approx. 1000 words)

Due Date: Sign up

3. Archives Response 10% (approx. 1000 words)

Due Date: June 5

4. Final Paper Proposal 5% (300-500 words)

Due Date: June 19

Research Paper 30% (4500-5000 words: 15-18 pages)

Due Date: July 31st (midnight, through OWL)

This paper will explore a food-related topic of your choosing in relation to one or more primary texts from our syllabus. It should be based on research, ideally consisting of at least 10 secondary sources. However, if the libraries are still closed /your access to libraries is limited, then I will grade your papers with that in mind. Even with research limitations, you should aim to make a clear, well-developed, and well-written argument. You may use your seminar as a starting point. If you do, the final paper should substantially develop your seminar ideas through: a more in-depth analysis of the primary text, **the required addition of a second primary text**, and through additional research (where possible). In other words, this paper should be a substantial investigation of a new idea and/or a process of active revision and expansion.

Notes on Extensions and Technology:

No extensions will be granted for mini-papers or presentations except when warranted by medical or personal circumstances.

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 the following Web site:

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

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Scrupulous accuracy in the quotation and citation of all sources and references is expected.

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwo.com/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Course Schedule

Monday May 11: Introductory Preparation

Watch: Supersizers Go... Elizabethan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tzUrtJAZcc>

(note: this is the link to the full episode)

Read: William Harrison, "Of the Food and Diet of the English" (OWL)

Do: Read my synopses of primary texts and sign up for one seminar and one secondary source mini-paper. I'll also post three discussion questions to focus our conversation on the 12th. No need to post answers, but please do jot down some thoughts.

Tuesday May 12: Historical Food Zoom Discussion, 10-12

Thursday May 14: Deloney Seminar posted by noon

Post responses by midnight

Friday May 15: Hospitality Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ Thomas Deloney, *Jack of Newbury*
- ▶ "An Homilie Against Gluttony and Drunkenesse" (OWL)
- ▶ Jacques Derrida, "Hostipitality" (OWL)

Monday May 18: Happy Victoria Day

Tuesday May 19: Greene Seminar posted by noon

Post responses by midnight

Wednesday May 20: Erotics of Milk Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ **Robert Greene**, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay*
- ▶ **Wendy Wall**, “The erotics of milk and live food, or, ingesting early modern Englishness” (OWL)
- ▶ **Dietary and Housewifery manuals on milk:** Andrew Boorde, *Here Followeth a Compendious Regiment, or Dietarie of Health*; Thomas Elyot, *The Castell of Health*; William Vaughan, *Directions for Health*; Gervase Markham, *The English Housewife* (OWL)

Thursday May 21: Clinton Seminar posted by noon
Post responses by midnight

Friday May 22: Homegrown Milk Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ **Elizabeth Clinton, Countess of Lincoln**, *Countesse of Lincolnes Nurserie* (EEBO/OWL)
- ▶ **Thomas Moffat**, “Of Milk” in *Health’s Improvement* (OWL)
- ▶ **James Guillimeau**, *The Nursing of Children*, “Preface to Ladies,” and Ch. 1, 2, 6. (OWL)
- ▶ **Divines on maternal nursing:** William Gouge, *Of Domesticall Duties*; William Perkins, *Christian Oeconomie*; John Dod and Robert Cleaver, *Godlie Forme of Householde Governement* (OWL)

May 25: Woolley Seminar (1) posted by noon
Post responses by midnight

May 26: Printed Recipes Part 1 Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ **Hannah Woolley**, *The Queen-like Closet* (EEBO/OWL)
- ▶ **Gitanjali Shahani and Emily Farris**, “Add Thereto a Tiger’s Chaudron” (OWL)

May 28: Woolley Seminar (2) posted by noon
Post responses by midnight

May 29: Printed Recipes Part 2 Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ **Hannah Woolley**, *Supplement to the Queen-like Closet* (EEBO/OWL)
- ▶ **Julia Reinhard Lupton**, “Thinking with things” (OWL)

June 2: Theory and Practice of Early Modern Cooking Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ “Bring” a historical dish and your reflection paper (submit paper on OWL)
- ▶ **Luce Giard**, “Gesture Sequences” (OWL)
- ▶ **Ken Albala**, “Cooking as Research Methodology: Experiments in Renaissance Cuisine” (OWL)
- ▶ **John Cochran** “Object Oriented Cookery” (OWL)

June 5: Online Archives Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ Early Modern Maritime Recipes (EMMR) <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca>
- ▶ Read the “Historical Context,” and look at (i.e. you don’t have to read them closely, but see what’s there) all the fonds. Select a few fonds/recipes to look at more closely, so you can think broadly as well as closely about this archive.
- ▶ Note the “Essays” section. This isn’t required, but could be a useful reference if you wanted to pursue some aspect of these archives for a final paper. Also note “Further Reading.”
- ▶ “Bring” your EMMR response paper (and submit on OWL)

June 8: Shakespeare Seminars (2) posted by noon
 Post responses by midnight

June 9: Cannibalism Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ William Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*
- ▶ Louise Noble, “Medicinal Cannibalism” (OWL)
- ▶ Ovid, “Tereus, Procne, and Philomela” (OWL)

June 11: Cavendish Seminars (2) posted by noon
 Post responses by midnight

June 12: Domestic Experiments Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, *Poems and Fancies* (1653/64/68): online critical edition by Liza Blake <http://library2.utm.utoronto.ca/poemsandfancies/>; read Part III, Prefatory Material: “To Poets,” “To the Reader”; Fancies: “The Several Keys of Nature,” “Nature’s Cabinet,” “Nature’s Dress,” “Nature’s Cook,” “Nature’s Oven,” “A Posset for Nature’s Breakfast,” “An Olio Dressed for Nature’s Dinner,” “A Bisk for Nature’s Table,” “A Hodge-Podge for Nature’s Table,” “A Heart Dressed,” “Head and Brain Dressed,” “A Tart,” “Nature’s Dessert”
- ▶ Cavendish, *Sociable Letters* #32, 47, 55, 154, 160, 199 (OWL)
- ▶ Robert May, assorted Bisk recipes (OWL)
- ▶ Elizabeth Scott-Baumann, “The blazon and the body” (OWL)

June 15: Milton Seminar posted by noon
 Responses posted by midnight

June 16: Hospitality in Eden Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, focus on Books 4-5
- ▶ David Goldstein, “Eaters of Eden” (from *Eating and Ethics*) (OWL)

June 18: Milton Seminars (2) posted by noon
 Responses posted by midnight

June 19: Forbidden Food Zoom Discussion 10-12

- ▶ John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, focus on Books 9-10
- ▶ Robert Appelbaum, “Eve’s and Adam’s ‘Apple’” (OWL)
- ▶ Submit your Final Paper Proposal on OWL