

Department of English and Writing Studies

**Food Writing 2222G**

**Section: 001 Time/Room: Thursdays 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Instructor: Melanie Chambers**

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**Office: University College Room 1422**

**Office hours: Thursdays 10:00-12:00 p.m.**

Writing 2222G 001 Special Topic: Creative Writing: Food Writing Western University

**Course description:** Food writing touches many genres of writing: it is part memoir, history, reporting, biography and narrative. This course will teach students how to write these various genres while emphasizing the trends (slow food, organics, local), politics (trans fats, genetically modified food) and the culture of food. Students will also develop specific research methods to understand the history and future of our food systems.

**Required Texts:** *Tender at the Bone*, by Ruth Reichl

**Recommended Texts:** *On Writing Well*, by William Zinsser

	First draft	Final Draft	Worth	
Food Reports	Jan 30	Feb 6	20%	
Memoir	Feb 27	March 5	25%	
Restaurant Review	March 12	Due midnight	20%	
Farmer/Chef profile	April 2	April 6	25%	

Trends presentation			10%	
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**Peer editing:** You will notice that every assignment, except the pre-trip assignment, requires a first draft, which will be used for in-class editing purposes. The first due date is when the peer edit draft is due. Every peer edit workshop requires **THREE** copies of your work. The purpose of this is to mimic the editor and writer relationship that exists in a 'real world' scenario. Editing and rewriting are critical to improving and sculpting a story for publication. As an editor, you will learn to critique and help shape fellow students' work and as a writer, you must get used to adopting and/or rejecting editing comments and concerns. This work will be done in-class; therefore, if you're absent, this will reflect on your participation mark.

**Note:** a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course *will* count as non-attendance, and *will* attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario *shall not require* a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is *your* choice; your absence will not be excused.

See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below. **Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism**

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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 (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

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>).

### **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 70 or more in Writing 1000F/G or Writing 1030F, or c) Special Permission of the department.*

### **Attendance Policies**

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more.* (
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final

grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72). (

- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68). (This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors.

See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below. (**Attendance also extends to tardiness.** If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance. (**Note:** a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course *will* count as non-attendance, and *will* attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario *shall not require* a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is *your* choice; your absence will not be excused. (**Medical Accommodation Policy** (For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_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.

### **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 your instructor does 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.

## Weekly lectures and readings

### CLASS ONE

**Lecture:** The Meaning of Food; Tradition and discourse of food writing

**Watch:** Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations

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### CLASS TWO

**Lecture:** Describing Food and Food report

**Readings:** *Tender at the Bone*

*<https://www.writing.ie/resources/food-writing-so-good-you-can-taste-it-dianne-jacob/>*

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### CLASS THREE

**Lecture:** Trends

**Readings:** *Tender at The Bone*

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### CLASS FOUR

**Lecture:** Memoir

**Workshop** food reports

**Readings:** *Tender at The Bone*

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## **CLASS FIVE**

**Lecture:** History of food writers

**Readings:** *online* Savarin, MFK Fisher, Craig Claiborne, Mark Bittman, Michael Polan

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## **CLASS SIX**

**Lecture:** Guest speaking and writing for publications (markets)

**Readings:** *TBA*

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**February 17 – 21 Study Week!**

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## **CLASS SEVEN**

**Lecture:** workshop memoir

**Readings:** *http://www.bbc.com/travel/gallery/20191117-is-uzbek-cuisine-actually-to-die-for*

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## **CLASS EIGHT**

**Lecture:** Restaurant Review

**Readings:** *online (check readings online)*

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## **CLASS NINE**

**Lecture:** Recipes and headnotes

*Readings: Edible Toronto*

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## CLASS TEN

**Lecture: Profiles (include a recipe from chef)**

**Readings: <https://canadas100best.com/peruvian-food/>**

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**<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20191202-is-this-japans-most-perfect-ramen>**

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## CLASS ELEVEN

**Lecture: Wine and Beverages**

*Readings: online*

**<https://winefolly.com/review/write-excellent-wine-tasting-notes/>**

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## CLASS TWELVE

**Lecture: workshop profiles**