

Food Writing: Eating Your Words**2222 F 650**

Special Topic: Creative Writing: Food Writing Western University

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

Assignments

Food Report: worth 20%

Profile chef/farmer: worth 35%

Memoir: worth 35%

Restaurant Review: 15% --no drafts

Forum Participation and weekly reading summaries: 5%

NOTE: Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Text

Eating Words: A Norton Anthology of Food Writing by Sandra M Gilbert (Author), Ruth Reichl

Assignment Format

Double spaced, 12 point front Times Roman Word Documents only. No PDFs. Name and course number on left hand side of first page. No title pages required. Marks will be deducted if students write 10% over the word count.

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 and submitting assignments

Peer editing: You will notice that every assignment requires a first draft, which will be used for online editing purposes *except the food report. 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.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism, AI Use

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

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>).

In this course, students are permitted to use **AI tools** for information gathering and preliminary research purposes only (unless otherwise indicated in the assignment instructions). These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. It is essential, however, that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize, develop, and articulate their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism in any form. Note that for all assignments completed outside of class, the instructor can require you to attend an inperson interview to discuss your work and/or to review research notes, rough drafts, outlines and other materials used in preparing the assignment before a mark is finalized. Assignments should always reflect students' own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions." "In this course, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited, unless there has been discussion with and agreement by the instructor before beginning an assignment. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and/or other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of Information for Writing Studies Instructors Fall/Winter 2025-2026 any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them."

Attendance Policies

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. I don't like to penalize late assignments; however, since one of the purposes of this course is to familiarize you with the writing profession, you need to know that deadlines are crucial. For this reason, all assignments will be due on the date specified unless you negotiate an extension at least 48 hours in advance. Following any other policy would be an injustice to you as a future writer.

Assignments are submitted electronically. Late assignments will be penalized at 3 marks per day, including weekends.

Obviously we do not meet formally as a "class" in a Distance Studies course. Therefore "attendance" and participation on the Discussion Board are intertwined. Distance Studies classes are generally self-paced, so you must attend class (defined as logging into our OWL section) and participate by introducing yourself, and posting questions and thoughts each week based on the given week's set discussion topic) **at least two times weekly**. This means at least two separate posts per week (a week is defined as running from Monday to Sunday), at least one of which must be a "new" post rather than just a reply to someone else's.

Extended absences, defined as a failure to post into the OWL classroom for more than five consecutive days, must be coordinated with the instructor.

Postings on the Discussion Board must have the following characteristics:

Must contribute something meaningful to the Board; Must support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence; Must display good grammar and organization.

Postings should not:

Contain disrespectful or insulting language; Be excessively long or excessively short; Be unrelated to the week's topic; Say things that do not contribute anything, e.g. "I agree with you" or "nice comment". I will track your postings to the discussion Board, and it will be part of your 5% Online Discussion/ Exercises/Workshopping mark indicated above. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements **may result in your final grade in the course being reduced by 10%** (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

Although this is an online course, you are expected to check into the OWL site on a regular basis, to read the material and your fellow students' comments, participate in online discussions and to interact online with your fellow classmates by workshopping your drafts as much as online allows you. This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. 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.

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