

ENG 394: Writing about Food

Spring B iCourse (#36939): March 13-April 28, 2023



This NEW iCourse explores writing about food through seven units. Each unit typically includes assigned readings, videos or a film to watch, short written responses, and a project.

Week 1 Food Memories

What are your most vivid food memories? What do they reveal about the people, places, traditions, and experiences that are important to you? Project: Descriptive food memory narrative (can be a themed series of shorter vignettes).

Week 2 Growing Food

What kinds of produce will grow in your USDA zone? What can we learn online about local farms? Project: Start a few seeds, and justify your choice of plants; log their progress during the course. (See planting event note below.)

Week 3 Food History

What are the stories behind the food available to us today? How have people used ingredients and tools throughout history to make meals? Project: Food history research findings shared through a visual form (e.g., comic, picturebook).

Week 4 Cooking

What are some culinary techniques that every home cook should know? What resources—books, shows, blogs, etc.—can support your continued growth? Project: Plan and film your own cooking show (i.e., recipe demonstration).

Week 5 Eating

Which foods do you love to eat and why? Are there any cuisines, ingredients, or restaurants that you are eager to try? Project: Restaurant review.

Week 6 Food in Literature and Film

How has food been represented in poems, novels, graphic novels, picturebooks, TV shows, and films? Is there a market for creative writing about food? Project: Compose a creative work that prominently features food.

Week 7 Food and Culture

Which foods have traditionally been used in different cultures and why? What kinds of factors (e.g., geography, economics, religion) influence what people eat? Project: Slideshow about an international cuisine or a food movement.

Please Note: There will be an optional spring planting event at ASU's Polytechnic campus in March for those students who would like to attend. There are no quizzes, tests, or required textbooks in this writing-focused course; however, a Hulu or Netflix subscription is recommended. The instructor is willing to issue honors contracts for appropriate projects. Adjustments may be made to this outline prior to the start of class.

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