

## *Fall/Winter 2017-2018*

**AP/EN 4002 6.0A (Y)**

### ***Food and Writing***

**Course Director:**

David Goldstein  
Email: dgolds@yorku.ca

**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm

**Description:**

This course explores the intersections between food, writing, and culture. We will examine such topics as the religious, philosophical, anthropological, sociological, and scientific meanings of food in relation to larger discourses of the body; the development of recipes and cookbooks; the interactions between food, gender, race, and class; modern ecology; how food shapes and is shaped by identity, and how authors use the rhetoric of food to imagine their place as writers and readers.

Our texts will range widely across periods and genres, from poems, plays, novels, and memoirs to works of social theory and philosophy, to films, television shows, blogs, and websites. The course will be divided roughly into three sections, focusing on theoretical approaches to food, a chronological study of food in early literature, and a looser grouping of topics in food study, with special emphasis on issues of ethics, identity, and ecology. Our ultimate goal will be to articulate specific and meaningful relationships among food, writing, and culture.

The class will mix lectures by the instructor with student-driven discussion. It is each student's responsibility to 1) remain involved and engaged in lectures by note-taking and asking questions, 2) participate actively in discussion both in class and online, and 3) to keep pace with the required reading, which forms the backbone of the course. Students will also be expected to do a little cooking and to share the literal and intellectual results with the class.

**Category:**

A

**Area:**

6

**Period:**

N/A

**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

Essay 1 (1000 words) 15%; Restaurant Review 5%; In-Class First Term Test 20%; Bibliography for research essay 5%; Recipe Blogpost 5%; Final Project (research essay or creative project) (3000 words) 30%; Class Presentation 10%; Participation 10%

**Reading List:**

(all course texts subject to change)

Michael Pollan, *In Defense of Food* (Penguin, 2008)

Aristophanes, *The Birds and Other Plays* (Penguin, 1978)

Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, ed. Frances Dolan (Penguin: Pelican Shakespeare, 2000)

M.F.K. Fisher, *The Gastronomical Me* (Farrar Strauss Giroux, 1954)

Fred Wah, *Diamond Grill* (NeWest, 2006)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. David Kastan (Hackett, 2005)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, ed. Marie Borroff (Norton: Norton Critical, 2009)

Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, *The Physiology of Taste*, tr. M.F.K. Fisher (Vintage, 2011)

**Open To:**

Yr 4 Honours