WORLD LITERATURE — “Devouring Words”
English 200x—F71 CRN 51307
MTWR July 2 - Aug. 9, 2018  12-1:50 p.m., GRUE 412

Instructor: Martha Bristow  e-mail: mebristow@alaska.edu, poetnorth44@yahoo.com

Office hours:
2-3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, main floor Rasmuson Library (and by appointment).

Required Texts:
Like Water for Chocolate, Laura Esquivel
Two Old Women, Velma Wallis
Consider the Oyster, MFK Fisher

There will be a number of other readings — at least two per day — supplied by the instructor. These will include essays, articles, poems and other works addressing the role of food in various cultures.

Course description: Welcome to a survey of world literature focusing on FOOD! We will read three books and a host of poems, articles, essays, and excerpts that explore the significance of food in culture. We all share the need for food. Some of us are compelled not only to eat, but to write about the experience. We’ll sample writings ranging from the Psalms to present-day food reviews. The class will explore food as a necessary resource as well as a form of expression and a source of pleasure.

Course requirements: In addition to reading the required texts and supplemental materials supplied by the instructor, you will take a weekly reading quiz, write four weekly one-page response papers, write a three-page final paper, and take a final exam. You will keep a reading journal that I will check in class weekly.

Materials: You will need a spiral notebook that will be used exclusively as a reading journal.

Paper specifications: Please submit all papers typed, double-spaced, on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper. Use 12 pt. Times Roman font and 1-inch margins all around. Unless we write papers in class, handwritten papers will NOT be accepted and I will not grade papers submitted via e-mail.

Writing Support: You may earn up to 5% extra credit on your short response papers and your final paper if you take a draft to the Writing Center on the eighth floor of the Gruening Building and obtain help from a tutor. Call 474-5314 for an appointment.
NOTE: Take along a clean draft of your paper and my instructions for the assignment. Ask the tutor to sign and date the draft and turn it in with your final draft.
Class Schedule: We will discuss readings on the days they are listed. There will be at least one weekly reading quiz. It is possible there could be more.

**WEEK 1: In the Beginning**

**Monday, July 2:** Introduction to course. Explanation of class policies. Distribution of short readings for Tuesday.
**Tuesday, July 3:** Discuss selections from the Bible, *The Arabian Nights*, Shakespeare, and other sources.
**Wednesday, July 4:** HOLIDAY
**Thursday, July 5:** HOLIDAY

**WEEK 2: A Matter of Survival**

**Monday, July 9:** Response Paper 1 due in class. Reading quiz 1. Discuss: *Two Old Women*, by Velma Wallis; excerpt from *Kusiq: An Eskimo Life History From the Arctic Coast of Alaska*, by Waldo Bodfish, Sr.
**Thursday, July 12:** Reading journal check. Discuss: excerpt from *We Live in the Arctic* by Constance Helmericks; excerpt from *Spawn of the North*, by Barrett Willoughby.

**WEEK 3: When a Pomegranate is Not Just a Pomegranate**

**Monday, July 16:** Response Paper 2 due in class. Reading quiz 2; Discuss: *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel. Begin movie "Like Water for Chocolate."
**Tuesday, July 17:** Finish movie. Discuss: How faithful is the movie to the novel? What is gained/lost?
WEEK 4: Famous Writers Who Write about Food

Tuesday, July 24: Discuss: "Consider the Lobster," by David Foster Wallace; excerpt from Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser; excerpt from The Jungle by Upton Sinclair.
Wednesday, July 25: Discuss: excerpt from Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson; excerpt from Coming to My Senses by Alice Waters.
Thursday, July 26: Reading journal check. Discuss: "Hotel Kitchens," by George Orwell; "Don't Eat Before Reading This" by Anthony Bourdain. Watch "Parts Unknown: Hanoi."

WEEK 5: More Famous Writers Who Write about Food

Monday, July 30: Response paper 4 due in class. Reading quiz 4. Discuss: excerpt from Tender at the Bone by Ruth Reichl; poems "The Emperor of Ice Cream," by Wallace Stevens; "This is Just To Say" by William Carlos Williams.
Tuesday, July 31: Discuss: excerpt from The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston; poems "What I Want to Make for You" and "Chocolates" by Natasha Saje; "Perhaps the World Ends Here" by Joy Harjo.
Wednesday, Aug. 1: Discuss: "Just a Quiet Dinner for Two in Paris" by Craig Claiborne; poems "Ode to the Onions," by Pablo Neruda; "Persimmons" by Li-Young Lee. Watch "Parts Unknown: Libya."
Thursday, Aug. 2: Reading journal check. Discuss: "The Hunger Artist" by Franz Kafka.

WEEK 6: Let Us Feast

Monday, Aug. 6: No response paper. No reading quiz. Watch the movie "Babette's Feast."
Tuesday, Aug. 7: Finish movie. Discuss movie. Review for final.
Wednesday, Aug. 8: Final papers due. Presentations. Potluck lunch.
Thursday, Aug. 9: Final exam.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance
Your presence and participation are vital to your success in the class and the success of the class as a whole, so attendance is mandatory. In-class writing, quizzes, exams, and discussion cannot be made up, so any absences will damage your grade; however, I do provide extra credit opportunities for students with excused absences (skateboarding, sleeping-in, gaming, drunkenness, etc. do not count as excused absences). If you must miss class due to illness or catastrophic personal events, contact me before class. Athletes, midwives, EMTs, and other professional interventionists, of course, know to make arrangements with me regarding any missed class time.

To be clear, in a summer course with just 22 meetings, more than ONE absence is considered excessive and will affect your participation grade.
Special needs
If you feel you may need an accommodation for any type of disability, please make an appointment to see me.

Academic Honesty
All work submitted in this course must be your own and must be written specifically for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases) must be properly and scrupulously documented. We will thoroughly discuss ways to avoid accidental plagiarism, since the penalty for plagiarism is an "F" for this course. Additional penalties, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, may be enforced.

Incompletes
An “Incomplete” grade is assigned only for documented medical or family emergencies, and you must have completed at least 50% of the class requirements.

Cell Phones
No talking on phones or texting during class. I am certain that you cannot pay attention to what is presented in class if you are on your cell phone. What is more to the point, I cannot pay attention to what I am saying and presenting if you are on your cell phone. If your device becomes a distraction to anyone, I will ask you to leave class. This is a firm policy.

We will have a break halfway through class each day. This will give you an opportunity to check your messages and respond. If you have a family or work emergency going on, please go outside the classroom to deal with your situation and fill me in later if there is something I need to know.

Papers
You will write four short papers and one longer comparative paper for the class. I will give you written and verbal instructions for the papers in class.

Grading
Your grade will be based on an accumulation of points over the course of six weeks.

Here is an approximate breakdown:

- Participation: 22 classes x 5 points per class = 110 points
- Journal checks: 4 weeks x 10 points per check = 40 points
- Short papers: 4 short papers x 10 points each = 40 points
- Quizzes: 4 reading quizzes x 10 points each = 40 points
- Pop Quiz: at least one x 10 points each = 10 points
- Final Paper: 60 points
- Final Exam: 100 points

Total: 400 points

Your grade will be calculated as a simple percentage of the total. I reserve the right to add short assignments/ quizzes if they seem necessary.