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ENG. 360C

Creative Nonfiction Workshop: Food Writing

Course description

In this course we will use food (and drink) as the entry point for writing about matters larger than they might appear on the plate (or in the glass.) Meaning: We will use food (and drink) as a vehicle to write about love, loss, family, politics, memoir, travel, or, in short, any possible topic that might strike our fancy. We will also read a lively selection of contemporary essays about food (and drink) from notable writers. In a workshop setting, we will craft four short essays aimed at consumption by a mass audience.

Required reading

1. *Best American Food Writing*, edited by Holly Hughes
2. *Gut Check*, by Bob Morris
3. Each student will also read one book selected from a list that will be passed out in class. Students will write a short (350-word) paper about the book and conduct a brief (five-minute) discussion of the book in class.
4. Numerous in-class handouts.

Class policies

Absences: One time is a freebie and you don't have to explain. Two times, please let me know by email in advance, but you still don't have to explain. Three times, you drop a letter grade. Four times ... you're a goner.

Late: Don't be. More than 15 minutes and it counts as an absence.

Addendum to the above: You **WILL NOT** miss class when you are in charge of a discussion or a workshopped article, or if your article is scheduled to be workshopped. If there is absolutely no way out of it, you **MUST** contact me at least 24 hours in advance. You are letting your fellow writers down if you don't show up when you're responsible for a portion of the class.

Cell phones: Off and out of sight, please, except during breaks.

Laptops: If you got 'em, use 'em. But if I suspect you might be using them for something other than class work, well, it might prove embarrassing.

Food and drink: Hey, this is a food writing course. By all means, bring stuff to eat and drink. But please chew with your mouth closed, and if you've got really good stuff then consider sharing.

Office hours/meetings: I don't have an office at Rollins, but I live only a couple of blocks from campus and I am available for pre-arranged meetings. Typically, it's best to meet before class – say, in the 6:00-6:45 p.m. slot – in the adjunct professors' meeting room in Olin Library. (First floor, on the left as you head to the DVD section.) But I can be available for brief meetings after class if that works best for you.

What to call me: Not Dr. Morris. Because I'm not one. Professor Morris or Mr. Morris work just fine. Or Bob is good, if you're comfortable with that. I certainly am.

Course requirements

In addition to the book review, students will write four essays.

1. Essay #1 (with recipe) – 900 words
2. Restaurant review – 900 words
3. Essay #2 (sense of place) – 1,200 words
4. Essay #3 (wild card) – 1,500 words

Essay format: Essays will be written in Times New Roman 12 pt., double-spaced, with numbered pages centered at the bottom. Format: Word .doc or .docx. Each essay will be slugged at the top left margin as follows:

Essay #
Working title
Your name
Your email address

Delivery: All essays will be emailed to the instructor before the drop-dead due date. Emphasis on drop-dead. Because if you are late and you expect an extension, then you might as well...

Class schedule

The following week-by-week schedule is subject to change:

January 17

Course overview and a little snack

Reading: *The Squeamish American*, Tom Perrotta; *Homesick Restaurant*, Nadeem Aslam
Selections for book reviews

Reading for 24 January: *Gut Check*, by Bob Morris

January 24

Writing discussion

Discuss *Gut Check*

Reading for 31 January: *Oysters*, by Roy Blount, Jr. (I'll send link via email)

BAFW 2011 reading for 31 January: TBD

January 31

*** Essay #1 due before class ***

Writing/reading discussion

BAFW 2011 reading for 7 February: TBD

February 7

Reading discussion

Workshop Essay #1

Book reviews

BAFW 2011 Reading for 14 February: TBD

February 14

Workshop Essay #1

Reading discussion

Book reviews

February 21

*** Essay #2 due before class ***

Reading discussion

Book reviews

February 28

Workshop Essay #2

Book reviews

March 6

Rollins Spring Break/No Class

March 13

***Essay #3 due before class ***

Workshop Essay #2

Book reviews

March 20

*** Workshop Essay #3 ***

Book reviews

March 27

Workshop Essay #3

Book reviews

April 3

***Essay #4 due before class ***

Book reviews

April 10

Workshop Essay #4

*** Last book reviews must be done by tonight***

April 17

Workshop Essay #4

Potluck Dinner

April 24

No class

*** Final draft of Essay #4 due before 6:45 p.m.***

EVALUATION

Reading discussion: 5 percent

Workshop leadership/participation: 5 percent

Book review: 5 percent

Essay #1: 15 percent

Essay #2: 15 percent

Essay #3: 20 percent

Essay #4: 30 percent

The percentage among you will notice that equals 95 percent. So where does the other 5 percent of your grade come from? Two exciting words: Pop Quiz. I reserve the right to test you on your knowledge of the assigned reading at any time and award points accordingly. But don't sweat it. These quizzes won't be tough. If you've done the reading, then you'll score well on the quizzes.

Academic Honor Code

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of academic life at Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community.

Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all poems submitted for this class the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Disability Services Statement

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) - Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 407-646-2354 or email: gridgateway@rollins.edu