PWR 3020, sections 045,050. Food Glorious Food
Spring, 2007

Instructor: Juliet Wittman

Office hours: MW 1:30 to 3 p.m. and by appointment, Environmental Design Building
(ENVD) IB80 (lower level)

(303) 735-4772. jwitts@aol.com

Texts:

The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, by Michael Pollan,
Penguin. Available at Boulder Book Store, 1107 Pearl Street.

Optional but highly recommended: Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American
Meal, by Eric Schlosser.

Articles and essays as assigned.

Student papers: Papers will be workshoped in class, and you will need to make copies of
your papers for distribution to your fellow students.

Recommended supplemental texts:

The Elements of Style, Strunk and White
On Writing Well, William Zinsser
A first-rate dictionary and a college handbook, such as The Everyday Writer, Andrea
A. Lunsford, Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

Course description:

Food, Glorious Food examines the ways in which we think, talk and write about a topic
that is deeply personal but that also defines cultures and sometimes drives world politics.
We will discuss such topics as the Slow Food movement, farm policy, hunger,
international trade, animal husbandry, the history and culture of a cuisine or of specific
foodstuffs, the role of food in film and the use of food as both metaphor and subject
matter in fiction.

In this class, you will learn to:
--Write clearly-thought-out analytic and argumentative pieces
--Hone research skills; learn to evaluate sources and read more critically
--Practice revision. Learn to critique both your own writing and that of others

Assignments will include a personal narrative, a persuasive paper and a research project
culminating in a 10-page research paper, in addition to several shorter pieces.
Attendance and participation:

Since this is a workshop class, attendance is crucial; participation counts for 15 percent of your final grade. More than two unexcused absences can result in your final grade falling by one fraction of a letter (from A to A-, etc.); four absences may earn you an F.

Writing Center: Individual tutoring is available for students at every writing level. You can make an appointment at: http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html

Week One: Jan. 15-17: Explanation of class focus; preliminary inquiry: What is American cuisine?

Make a list of everything you eat this week and extrapolate from the list, due Jan. 22

Week Two: Jan. 22-24: In-class writing on food memory; share memories; discuss previous week’s food lists.

Essay based on memory due Jan. 29
Read part one, The Omnivore’s Dilemma for discussion Jan. 31

Week Three: Jan. 29-31: The form of the essay, in-class critique; first discussion on The Omnivore’s Dilemma.

Essay rewrite due Feb. 5
Read part two, The Omnivore’s Dilemma

Week Four: Feb. 5-7: OD part two; research strategies and ideas.

Read part three, The Omnivore’s Dilemma


Write 1-page personal response to OD; list possible research topics from OD or elsewhere, due Feb. 19


Write a guest editorial for the New York Times on a food-related topic, possibly related to your research paper, due Feb. 26
Set up interview

Week Seven: Feb. 26-28: In-class critique of editorial; more on research topics

Rewrite editorial, due March 5
**Week Eight:** March 5-7: The art of argument; thesis statements, structure, and other aspects of a successful research paper; guest speaker

**Week Nine:** March 12-14: Presentations

*Interview/profile due in March 19*

**Week Ten:** March 19-21: Presentations

**Week Eleven:** March 26-30—Spring break

**Week Twelve:** April 2-4: Presentations

*Research paper due in April 9*

**Week Thirteen:** April 9-11: In-class writing exercise; the uses of description; food writing cliches; prose style

*Final draft research paper due April 16*

*Read restaurant review as assigned*

**Week Fourteen:** April 16-18: The role of the reviewer

*Please find a food reference in Shakespeare and bring it in on Monday in honor of his birthday*

*Restaurant review due in April 23*

**Week Fifteen:** April 23 (Shakespeare’s birthday)-25: FCQs; in-class critique of reviews

*Revised restaurant review due in April 30*

**Week Sixteen:** April 30-May 2: Final thoughts on the state of our food supply, the meaning of food. Wrap-up and celebration

**Policy statements:**

Students with disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices.

Religious holidays:

Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who,
because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom behavior:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and nationalities. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student code.

Honor Code:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. I will report all incidents of academic misconduct to the Honor Code Council. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Sexual harassment:

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/.