

ENGLISH 2123 SPECIAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

Culture: Food and Literature

Fall 2003

Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge

INSTRUCTOR: Ms Garnet Branch, Master of Arts, U. of Houston
Master of Arts, LSU

OFFICE: 240A Allen Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday: Noon to 2 PM; Thursday: 1- 4 PM

EMAIL AND PHONE: gbranc1@lsu.edu, 578-3031

CLASSROOM: 31 Allen Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through our study of literature we will examine the centrality of food in not only the sustenance of life, but also in the ‘making of meaning’ in such things as family, relationships, holidays and religions across cultures. As we look at representations of food in literature, we also explore the experience of hunger. A Service-Learning portion is required that involves about 2 visits each month (for a semester total of 15 hours) to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank or St Vincent de Paul’s. Documentation of hours will be submitted monthly to the Instructor along with a reflective journal of your experience.

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning is “a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meet identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility” (from Bringle & Hatcher, 1995). The Service-Learning portion involves helping at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul’s in a variety of activities. Primarily, time will be spent sorting and preparing food for delivery or service. However, on certain days, other tasks are required such as helping the office with mail-outs, sorting donated clothes, or other items. Learning will be assessed by your written analysis and synthesis with themes of the literature of you will be reading. Our contact person at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is Ms Bonnie Bordelon, Director of Volunteers. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is a not-for-profit agency that gathers, stores and redistributes food to charitable organizations that serve the needy. The Food Bank network includes more than 100 agencies in 12 parishes.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel

Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt

A Bite to Eat Place by edited by Andrea Adolph

Instructor prepared booklet available at Serve-U Center

COURSE OUTCOMES

In this course students will

- learn to read and interpret literature with a deeper understanding of character motivation and the economic influences on the production of literature
- develop the higher ordered cognitive skills of comparing and contrasting by writing about your own experiences that are similar to experiences in our text
- develop critical thinking and writing skills by writing journals of your service experiences that describe, narrate and analyze as you reflect
- learn to interact with people at local service organizations by participating in a variety of tasks essential to these organizations
- demonstrate an understanding of systemic social problems as illustrated in the literature and in the Baton Rouge community
- gain a broader perspective of the problems and strengths of our community through interaction with both the employees of the service organization and their patrons

COURSE WORK

DATE DUE	ASSIGNMENT	PERCENT
October 3	Essay on <i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> Between 1000-1500 words	15%
November 14	Poetry Explication of between 600-1000 words	15%
October 1	Reading Response and Service Report	10%
November 3	Reading Response and Service Report	10 %
December 1	Reading Response and Service Report	10%
November 24- December 10	Collaborative Presentation Topic list included in packet	15%
December 10	Reading Quiz total	10%
December 9	Service Journal	15%

Grade Scale: 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 50 and below F

TENTATIVE CALENDAR

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	IN-CLASS
8/25-9/3		Introduction

9/8	<i>Like Water for Chocolate (LWC)</i> Chapters 1 & 2	Quiz and Discussion
9/10	<i>LWC</i> , Chapters 3 & 4	Quiz and Discussion
9/15	<i>LWC</i> , Chapters 5 & 6	Quiz and Discussion
9/17	<i>LWC</i> , Chapters 7 & 8	Quiz and Discussion
9/22	<i>LWC</i> , Chapters 9 & 10	Quiz and Discussion
9/24	<i>LWC</i> , Chapters 11 & 12	Quiz and Discussion
9/29	Writing Workshop, <i>LWC</i>	
10/ 1	DUE: Reading Response and Service Report One	
10/3	Friday DUE: Essay One <i>LWC</i> , 3 PM, 240A Allen Hall	
10/6	Introduction to <i>Angela's Ashes</i> , Chapter 1	Quiz and discussion
10/ 8	Chapter 2 & 3	Quiz and discussion
10/13	Chapter 4 & 6	Quiz and discussion
10/15	Chapter 7 & 8	Quiz and discussion
10/20	Chapter 9-11	Quiz and discussion
10/22	Chapter 12-14	Quiz and discussion
10/27	Chapter 15-19	Quiz and discussion
10/29	Discuss Service-Learning	
11/ 3	DUE: Reading Response and Service Report Two	
11/5	Introduction to Poetry	
11/10	Poetry Workshop	
11/12	Poetry Workshop	
11/14	Friday, DUE: Poetry Explication 240A Allen Hall	
11/17 & 11/19	Supervised Study: Collaborative Presentations	

11/ 24 - 12/ 3 Oral Collaborative Presentation

12/1 DUE: Reading Response and Service Report Three

12/9 December 9 DUE Service Journal, 3 PM 240A Allen Hall