

CSP72-2: Restaurant Culture
MWF 11:30am – 12:25pm
Rangeview 232

Instructor: John T. Lang

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:30pm – 3:00pm, and by appointment

Office: South Swan D 6

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E-mail: lang@oxy.edu (best way to reach me)

Course Website: <http://moodle.oxy.edu>

INTRODUCTION

We all eat. But we do not eat the same food in the same places and we do not all share the same sense of taste. To help figure out why that is we will chronicle the development of restaurant dining in the United States, examining historical and current eating habits and culinary influences. We will look at cooks as workers, as artists, business entrepreneurs, professionals, and manual laborers. Similarly, we will look at restaurant menus and dining rooms as invitations for eating and as social artifacts that reveal much about who we are, individually and as a society.

Open only to first year frosh.

REQUIRED READING

For this class you buy two books, both available at the Occidental College Bookstore or online at your favorite book seller.

Fine, Gary Alan. 2008. *Kitchens: The Culture of Restaurant Work, 2nd Edition*. Berkeley, CA: The University of California Press.

Hacker, Diana. 2010. *A Writer's Reference, 6th Edition*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's Press.

GRADING

I will base your final grade on the following:

Proposal – 10%

Detailed Outline – 5%

Critical Analysis of Primary Sources – 10%

Annotated Bibliography – 10%

Synthesis with a Purpose – 15%

First Draft – 15%

Revised Page – 5%

Final Paper – 25%

Final Exam – 5%

Important note: You must send an electronic copy of your final research paper to Cecilia Muniz <cecilia@oxy.edu>.

Attendance/Participation

Our time together is brief and we have a wealth of ideas to exchange and explore in that limited period. I expect you to come to class on time and remain here until class is over. You may miss 2 class sessions without penalty. After that, for each missed class the your final course grade will drop one fraction of a letter grade. For example, if your work is above average and earns you a B, that absence will cause your final grade to drop to a B-. For every additional absence, your grade will continue to fall by the same fraction of a letter grade.

Arriving late or departing early twice equals one absence. I have this policy to encourage students to attend class and to do well in the course. I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. You are, therefore, strongly encouraged not to miss class carelessly because of the possibility of unexpected or unavoidable absences during the semester. No matter the reason, it is always your responsibility to contact other students to learn what you've missed and to get notes.

COURSE GRADES

Do NOT count on a curve. I will assign letter grades for the entire course as follows:

93.0 and higher = A	73.0 to 76.99 = C
90.0 to 92.99 = A-	70.0 to 72.99 = C-
87.0 to 89.99 = B+	67.0 to 69.99 = D+
83.0 to 86.99 = B	60.0 to 66.99 = D
80.0 to 82.99 = B-	59.99 and lower = F.
77.0 to 79.99 = C+	

Letter grades in this class have the following meaning:

- A *Outstanding performance.* You have demonstrated very thorough knowledge and understanding of all the material, truly superior critical thinking, and expressed insightful and original thoughts clearly. You have completed all required assignments and they have been among the best in the class.
- B *Good performance.* You have demonstrated solid knowledge and understanding of the material and good critical thinking. You have also shown the ability to express your ideas clearly. You have completed all required assignments and they have been of good quality.
- C *Satisfactory performance.* You have demonstrated basic knowledge and understanding of the major concepts taught in the class and some critical thinking. You have completed all or most of the required assignments and they have routinely been free of significant problems.
- D *Deficient performance.* You have only acquired a limited understanding of the class material. You have failed to complete all the required assignments and they have routinely had serious problems.
- F *Failure.* You have failed to learn a sufficient proportion of the basic concepts and ideas taught in the class. You have failed to complete many required assignments and they have routinely had serious problems.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

I will hold you responsible for the information in this syllabus, so I expect you to read it, understand it, and ask questions about anything you don't understand.

Office Hours: I hold three official office hours each week. I also encourage you to make an appointment outside of office hours or come by my office anytime to see if I'm available. I am happy to discuss class concepts, college more generally, musings about majors, future planning, or graduate school.

Feedback: I love getting feedback on my teaching and how the class is going. I value your input and I am willing to make changes to the class according to your preferences. Please share with me any comments, suggestions, and ideas you may have, and help me make this a great class. If you would like to do so anonymously, you can type and print out a note and drop it in my mailbox in South Swan D.

Class Demeanor: While we may find ourselves disagreeing, we must do so with respect, a commitment to hearing what others have to say, and a willingness to think and rethink our own positions. Personal insults have no place in the college classroom.

Technology in Class: Please turn off your cell phones when you come to class. Similarly, text messaging will not be tolerated in class. You are welcome to bring your laptop to class and use it to take notes, access readings we're discussing, and the like. You are not welcome to surf the web, check email, or otherwise perform non-class-related activities during class. Here's my best advice: If you aren't using it to perform a task specifically related to what we are doing in class at that very moment, put it away.

Special Accommodations/Learning Differences: Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability should talk to me sometime in the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes a learning disability, I encourage you to contact the friendly folks over at the Center for Academic Excellence (x2849).

Assignments: A hard copy of all papers/assignments must be handed in at the start of class on the scheduled date. I do not accept assignments via email. Late assignments are docked 1 grade per day. Computer and printing problems are not a good excuse for missing a deadline. Make sure to print your papers early enough to be able to address any problems before class. Keep a paper and electronic copy of everything you hand in until you receive your course grade.

Academic Integrity: As is always the case, you are responsible for your own work. If you find yourself questioning whether you have documented or cited your sources properly, it is your responsibility to come see me about these issues prior to submitting an assignment. If you are thinking about submitting work that is not your own due to pressure, frustration, perfectionism, or any other reason, please talk to me. I am here to help you resolve these issues before they become a problem for your academic career. Academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, will be taken very seriously. A description of Occidental's academic ethics policies is available in the Student Handbook and on the following webpage: <http://www.oxy.edu/x8000.xml>

CLASS SCHEDULE

All readings are due on the day they are listed. Although I will do my best to keep us on schedule, it is possible that we will make some adjustments during the semester. I will give as much notice - both in class and on the course website - when changes are necessary.

JANUARY

- 19 Welcome to the class
- 21 Ebert, "Nil by Mouth"
- 24 **HANDOUT: Proposal**
Rothstein, "Dine Like Rabelais (Till the Bill Comes)"
- 26 Whyte, "The Social Structure of the Restaurant"
- 28 Shelton, "A Theater for Looking, Eating, and Thinking"
- 31 Rogers, "Behind the Food Truck Divide"
Black, "Street-food Trucks Roll into Red Tape"

FEBRUARY

- 2 **DUE: Proposal**
- 4 **HANDOUT: Outline**
Lam, "Restaurant Critics Stare into the Abyss"
- 7 Sarah J. Ray Lecture in Thorne Hall (mandatory)
- 9 Laiskonis, "Cuisine or Death"

- 11 **DUE: Outline**
- 14 **HANDOUT: Critical Analysis of Primary Sources**
Druckman, "Why Are There No Great Women Chefs?"
- 16 Fine, Prefaces and Introduction
- 18 In-Class Timed Writing Exercise (mandatory)
- 21 No Class - Presidents Day
- 23 **DUE: Critical Analysis of Primary Sources**
- 25 Fine, Chapter 1: Living the Kitchen Life
"Kitchen Confidential – Michael Voltaggio"
- 28 **HANDOUT: Annotated Bibliography**
Fine, Chapter 3: The Kitchen as Place and Space

MARCH

- 2 Scholarly Research Session – OMac Lab in the Basement of the Library
- 4 Fine, Chapter 6: Aesthetic Constraints
- 7 No Class - Spring Break
- 9 No Class - Spring Break
- 11 No Class - Spring Break
- 14 Fine, Chapter 8: The Organization and Aesthetics of Culinary Life
- 16 **DUE: Annotated Bibliography**
- 18 **HANDOUT: Synthesis with a Purpose**
Ray, "Domesticating Cuisine"
- 21 Individual Writing Consultations
- 23 Individual Writing Consultations
- 25 In-Class "Your First College Year" (YFCY) survey (mandatory)
- 28 **DUE: Synthesis with a Purpose**
- 30 Individual Writing Consultations

APRIL

- 1 Sharing Work / In-class Conversation Groups
- 4 Sharing Work / In-class Conversation Groups
- 6 **DUE: First Draft (bring 2 copies to class)**
In-class Peer Review Session
- 8 Individual Writing Consultations
- 11 Individual Writing Consultations
- 13 Individual Writing Consultations
- 15 In-class Peer Review Session
- 18 **DUE: One Revised Page**
- 20 Guest Lecture: Dr. Alison Pearlman
- 22 Organizing Your Paper
- 25 Polishing Your Paper
- 27 **DUE: Final Paper**
Important note: You must send an electronic copy of your final research paper to Cecilia Muniz <cecilia@oxy.edu>.

MAY

- 3 **Final Exam @ 8:30am**

I'm looking forward to a great semester!