

*MU Honors Tutorial Proposal*

Gen Honors 2010H  
University of Missouri  
Dr. Sarah Beth V. Kitch

Fall 2019  
Tu 11am-12:15pm  
Jesse 410

**Food: Justice and Celebration in the Ethics of What We Eat**

“There is, then, a politics of food that, like any politics, involves our freedom...But if there is a food politics, there is also a food esthetics and a food ethics, neither of which is dissociated from politics.”

Wendell Berry, “The Pleasures of Eating” (1989)

**Wk 1: Food, Ethics, Politics**

Wendell Berry, “[The Pleasures of Eating](#)” (1989)

**Wk 2: Origin**

Leon Kass, “Food and Nourishing” in *The Hungry Soul* (1994) \*  
Carol Muske-Dukes, “[The Invention of Cuisine](#)” (1981)

**Wk 3: Eating**

Leon Kass, “The Human Form” in *The Hungry Soul* (1994)  
Li-Young Lee, “[From Blossoms](#)” (1986)

**Wk 4: Production**

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* selection (1906)  
Wendell Berry, “Nature as Measure (1989),” in *Bringing It to the Table* (2009)

**Wk 5: Sustenance**

June Jordan, “[1977: Poem for Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer](#)” (2005)  
Lisa Yun Lee, “Hungry for Peace: Jane Addams and the Hull-House Museum’s Contemporary Struggle for Food Justice” (2011)

**Wk 6: Struggle**

David Chang, “[Fried Chicken](#) [episode]” in *Ugly Delicious* (2018)

**Wk 7: Eat or Eat With?**

Leon Kass, “Host and Cannibal” in *The Hungry Soul* (1994)

## **Wk 8: Welcome**

Albert Camus, "The Growing Stone," in *Exile and the Kingdom* (1957)

## **Wk 9: Hospitality**

Leon Kass, "Freedom, Friendship, and Philosophy" in *The Hungry Soul* (1994)

## **Wk 10: Memory**

Francis Lam, "[A San Francisco Chef Traces Her Malaysian Roots](#)" (2017)

Jenny Rosenstrach, *Dinner: A Love Story* selection (2012)

## **Wk 11: Transcendence**

Leon Kass, "Sanctified Eating" in *The Hungry Soul* (1994)

Lauren Winner, "Fitting Food," in *The Spirit of Food* (2010)

## **Wk 12: Fasting**

Rumi, "[On Fasting](#)" (c. 1250)

Caroline Langston, "[Doing the Fast](#)"

Jarrah, Ali, Ullah, et al, "[Revealing Ramadan](#) [podcast]" (2016)

## **Wk 13: Feasting**

Isak Dinesen, [Babette's Feast](#) ([film production](#), 1987)

## **Wk 14: Still Feasting**

Isak Dinesen, [Babette's Feast](#) ([film production](#), 1987)

## **Wk 15: Conclusions**

*Integrating reflections on food, ethics, and politics*

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and by appointment

## **COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES**

Persons experience food as a basic requirement for staying alive as well as the center of celebrations that shape personal and communal identity. Through this tutorial, we encounter the intersection of food, ethics, and politics in concerns such as just access to food, ethical food production, storytelling in democracy, or reflections on the role of food in discovering what it means to be human. Our goal in this course is to understand themes of justice and meaning as we reflect on the ethical dimensions of what we eat. Contributors to this conversation develop their work in many forms, including narrative,

treatise, speech, essay, poetry, film, and song. Our readings move from the origins of food and eating, through the politics of food, into the ethical significance of celebrating with food.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In each meeting, we will give attention to a set of readings. You can expect that I will place emphasis on careful reading, imaginative analysis, and thoughtful interpretation of these texts. During the semester, students will be responsible for preparing four short essays and a final, longer work of critical analysis. In each of the four short essays, your aim is to develop a thoughtful, professionally-written discussion question based on the week's materials in 2-to-3 pages. You will submit this essay to me electronically *24 hours before the start of class* in the four weeks of your choice. The final essay is a 7- to 8-page work in which you critically analyze a theme related to our course and materials.

These assignments will be factored into my evaluation of your class performance in this way:

Interrogative Essay 1	15%
Interrogative Essay 2	15%
Interrogative Essay 3	20%
Interrogative Essay 4	20%
Final: Critical Analysis Essay	30%

MU has a plus/minus grading scale for final course grades. Your course grade is based four short essays and a final critical analysis essay. Expect penalties for late material.

### Grading Scale

A+ = 97-100  
A = 93-96  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 83-86  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  
C- = 70-72  
F = <70

**Note:** The use of phones and laptops is not allowed in class. Studies show improved learning outcomes associated with an environment free of screen-related interruptions.

## REQUIRED TEXTS/COURSE PACKET

Texts marked above with a single asterisk (\*) are available on Amazon and other outlets, and in the Mizzou Bookstore. All other texts are available as pdfs on Canvas or as hyperlinks in the syllabus.

### Purchase this book:

Leon Kass, *The Hungry Soul*  
ISBN 978-0226425689

## CANVAS

Login to Canvas to access certain course materials as well as your grades.

## PRESENCE, INTEGRITY, READING

Your success in this class depends upon your presence. The point of University is to think about what matters and about who you want to be. Those are difficult tasks, but tasks more than worth the effort. University life invites us to prepare, to think, and to be present. Presence is about more than simply showing up to class. It is about sharing in the task of understanding and analysis. That said, showing up to class is an important prerequisite for success.

Before each class period, you should read the assigned materials and thoughtfully consider their significance for our study. You will find a **weekly reading schedule** in this syllabus. Our task is to read sympathetically in order to read critically—that is, to understand what each author is asking and arguing, and then to thoughtfully evaluate the work. Of course, you should bring your copy of the text to class.

In University, all you have is your integrity. All forms of cheating, including plagiarism and turning in work not your own, diminish what we are here to do. Each of us needs integrity to accomplish the work at hand. If you fail to act with integrity, you will have to face yourself. You may also meet additional appropriate consequences. Persons representing the University of Missouri have promulgated a Code of Student Conduct ([https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected\\_rules/programs/ch200/200.010\\_standard\\_of\\_conduct](https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200/200.010_standard_of_conduct)).

## RESOURCES

**Office Hours.** Come to discuss questions about the course, university or graduate school, etc., during advertised hours, or email to arrange a time.

**University Writing Center.** For tutoring in writing, schedule an appointment at: <https://writingcenter.missouri.edu/>. The writing service can help writers of all levels.

**Students with Disabilities.** If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the Disability Center ([disabilitycenter.missouri.edu](http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu)), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696. Next, notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, see "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.