

IS 399:002 Food, Sustainability & the Literary Landscape
Spring 2012 / MW 3:00-4:15 / 1316 Alumni Hall

Instructors & Contact Information:

Dr. Gillian Acheson Department of Geography Office: 1401b Alumni Hall Phone: 650-5281 E-mail: gacheso@siue.edu Office hours: 1:30-2:30 MW Questions: Students with last names from A - K*	Dr. Jessica DeSpain Department of English Office: 0208 Peck Hall Phone: 650-2151 E-mail: jdespai@siue.edu Office hours: 4:30-5:45 MW Questions: Students with last names from L - Z*
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*If you have general questions about the course or your grade, please direct your questions to either Dr. Acheson or Dr. DeSpain based on your last name; questions about specific assignments should be directed to the professor who graded that assignment.

Course Description & Objectives:

This course examines the issues of food and sustainability through the lens of geography and literary analysis. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to do the following:

- To practice skills of literary analysis within a geographic and sociopolitical context
- To explore the concept of sustainability, including its environmental, economic, personal, and social connotations
- To analyze the sustainability of systems and institutions
- To develop methods for researching, writing, and presenting within groups

Course Texts

All books are available at Textbook Rental Services. All other course readings are available on the course's Blackboard site. Be prepared to read the Blackboard items as carefully as the course's other texts, and bring either your laptop or a printed copy of these readings to class with you. Because this class is largely about sustainability, we will not be distributing handouts of readings or course assignments; you will need to become accustomed to retrieving these items from Blackboard.

Ruth Ozeki	<i>My Year of Meats</i>
Nick Reding	<i>Methland</i>
Helena Maria Viramontes	<i>Under the Feet of Jesus</i>

Course Mechanics: Your final grade is a weighted average, comprised of the following:

	Weight:	
Final exam		30%
Group project	Report	20%
	Presentation	10%
Group reading presentations (3 at 10% each)		30%
Class exercises and reflections		10%
Total:		100%

Final exam: The exam will be based on lecture materials and assigned readings. It will be a combination of multiple choice, definitions and short essay questions. (Grading: Acheson & DeSpain)

Make-up exams will only be granted if you (1) contact one of us within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse.

Group project: Students will work with a group either to understand the sustainability of food services on campus or to implement a plan to reduce food waste. More details are available in the group project guidelines. (Grading: Acheson & DeSpain). The purpose of this project is to (1) understand the sustainability of food services on campus and (2) to develop a proposal to create a more sustainable approach to food services. The project is conducted in two stages. Half of the class will complete their project work during the first half of the semester (Phase I) while the other half of the class will complete their project during the second half of the semester (Phase II).

Group reading presentations: When your phase is not actively working on the final project, you will be responsible for presenting short reading presentations to the rest of the class. More information will be given prior to these presentation due dates. (Grading: DeSpain)

Class exercises and reflections: Quizzes, reflections, and small group work will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material and (2) attendance from time to time. Class exercises cannot be made up. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.* (Grading: Acheson)

Late assignments: Late assignments will incur a 5 point/day deduction for each day late. Assignments are late if not turned in at the beginning of the class on the date due (see the schedule below). A hard copy of all reflections should be turned in (due dates listed on schedule); these assignments cannot be submitted via e-mail, Blackboard, or faxed.

Grade distribution: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following distribution: A (90% and above); B (80-89.9%); C (70-79.9%); D (60-69.9%); and, F (59.9% and below). The course grade is weighted using the percentages described above. There is a grading calculator available on Blackboard under "course materials" so that you can determine what your grade is on the weighted scale.

E-mail Availability: E-mail is always the best way to get in touch with Dr. DeSpain and Dr. Acheson. Both professors will check their SIUE e-mail accounts Monday to Friday from 9:00-5:00. You can expect an e-mail response within twenty-four hours during the week. In turn, it is imperative that you check your SIUE e-mail account during these same times. In your e-mails follow a few simple e-mail courtesies; please provide a subject for your e-mail, and be sure to end the e-mail with your full name. E-mails about missed classes or assignments are not necessary and will not excuse any absence or missed assignment.

Class Courtesy: It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class on time. The class is 75 minutes - no more, no less - we will not keep you late but you must come prepared to spend the entire class period engaged in the class;
- (2) turn your cell phone off and put it away so that it is out of sight (no calls, no text messaging);
- (3) come to class prepared to listen and participate (in other words do not do other work, read the newspaper, sleep, or have private conversations while in this class - if you must do these things, then do not come to class);
- (4) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (5) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments which provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

First Day Attendance Policy: We reserve the right to drop any student not in attendance on the first day of classes.

Scholastic Honesty: Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly, without cheating. Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.

Schedule: The page numbers below represent the progress you should be making with your reading. Although group activities may supersede discussions of the reading on a certain day, it is important that you maintain the schedule below so that you are prepared for all discussions.

Unit	Week	Date	Reading	Activities and Due Dates
1: Food & Development (Economics)	1	Jan 9		Discuss syllabus & project Lecture: The Evolution of Agricultural Practices
		Jan 11	Selections from Wendell Berry, Bb	Continue w/ Agricultural Practices Lecture w/ Discussion: Nostalgia for the Agrarian
	2	Jan 16	Methland 1-39	Lecture w/ Discussion: Reading Non-fiction, Sustainability and Systems Thinking
		Jan 18	Methland 40-72	WikiTutorial Phase I: Role Discussion (Phase II out early)
	3	Jan 23	Methland 73-103	Lecture w/ Discussion: Cultural Geography in Rural America Due: Hometown Reflections
		Jan 25	Methland 107-136	Phase I: Data Discussion w/ show & tell Phase II: Literature Discussion
	4	Jan 30	Methland 137-166	Phase I: Data Collection Work Phase II: Assessing Rhetoric Reading Presentation Preparation (prep)
		Feb 1	Methland 167-191	Assessing for Rhetoric Presentations
	5	Feb 6	Methland 192-228	Phase I: Data Collection Work Phase II: Mapping the System Reading Presentations (prep)
		Feb 8	Methland 229-259	Phase II: Mapping the System Presentations
2: Food & Culture	6	Feb 13	Under the Feet of Jesus 3-46	Phase I: Data Collection Work Phase II: Literary Fiction's Cultural Play Reading Presentations (prep)
		Feb 15	Under the Feet of Jesus 49-90	Literary Fiction's Cultural Play Reading Presentations
	7	Feb 20	Under the Feet of Jesus 93-130	Lecture: Immigration and Culture
		Feb	Under the Feet of	Due: Food as Cultural Identifier

		Feb 22	Under the Feet of Jesus 133-180	Due: Food as Cultural Identifier Lecture/Discussion/Film Phase I: presentation skills
	8	Feb 27		Phase I Presentations
		Feb 29		Phase I Presentations continued Conversations with Campus visitors about going forward
	9	Spring Break		
	10	Mar 12		Full group discussion about Implementation Phase II: Role Discussion (Phase I out early)
		Mar 14	My Year of Meats 1-30	Lecture: Food and Place Due: Connecting Food and Place
3: Food & the Environment	11	Mar 19	My Year of Meats 31-63	Lecture/Film: Food and Place Phase I: Reading Discussion Phase II: Proposal Development Discussion
		Mar 21	My Year of Meats 64-86	Phase II: Proposal Development Phase I: Character Play Reading Presentations (prep)
	12	Mar 26	My Year of Meats 87-119	Phase I: Character Play Presentations
		Mar 28	My Year of Meats 120-167	Phase II: Proposal Development Phase I: Mapping Interactions Reading Presentations (prep)
	13	Apr 2	My Year of Meats 168-197	Phase I: Mapping Interactions Presentations
		Apr 4	My Year of Meats 198-241	Phase II: Proposal Development Phase I: Tracing Documents Presentations (prep)
	14	Apr 9	My Year of Meats 242-286	Phase I: Tracing Documents Reading Presentations
		Apr 11	My Year of Meats 287-321	Lecture: Women as Agricultural Symbol Film: <i>What We Eat</i> , "Milk's Leap Toward Immortality"
	15	Apr 16	My Year of Meats 322-361	Wrap-up Lecture
		Apr 18		Phase II Presentations
	16	Apr 23		Phase II Presentations
		Apr		Review