

# Topics in Literature: California Food Cultures

English 179.1—Summer 2018, Session A

Professor Carruth

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TIME MW 11:45 am to 1:50 pm  
LOCATION Royce 154/A

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This literature seminar will compare writers, filmmakers, artists, chefs, and activists who have both explored and helped to shape California's diverse food cultures over the past half century. The materials we will examine also address social movements ranging from environmental justice to "modernist cuisine." These materials include cookbooks, menus, restaurant reviews, literary fiction, documentary film, public art projects, and popular science writing.

The course will pursue two questions: How do stories of growing, harvesting, distributing, cooking, eating and sharing food take shape across different genres and different media of storytelling? And how does writing about food open onto and illuminate other social issues—including issues of gender, race, labor, entrepreneurship, sustainability and creativity. With these questions in view, the seminar will introduce you to the growing field of food studies and will provide individual and collaborative opportunities to sharpen your own research and writing toolkits.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- Course Reader [Available at Copymat in Westwood Village]
- Novella Carpenter, *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer*
- Roy Choi, *LA Son: My Life, My City, My Food*
- M.F.K. Fisher, *Consider the Oyster*
- Cherríe Moraga, *Heroes & Saints & Other Plays*

## ASSIGNMENTS & GRADE BREAKDOWN

Deadlines are on the course schedule below; Assignment details are on CCLE course website

Description	% of Grade
<p><b>Participation</b></p>	<p>10%</p>
<p><b>Team Research Project + Digital Exhibit</b></p> <p><u>Requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal   2-3 pages:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Planned platform for exhibit (e.g., WordPress, Instagram, Pinterest)</li> <li>(b) summary of your topic</li> <li>(c) description of planned images and/or other media</li> <li>(d) list of 6-10 possible primary sources for the digital exhibit from your team’s research plus a 2-3 sentence description of each item and</li> <li>(e) team roles and project timeline</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One team meeting with Professor Carruth</li> <li>• Final digital exhibit plus individual reflection letters</li> </ul>	<p>30%</p>
<p><b>Individual Essay &amp; Presentation</b></p> <p>This assignment asks you to develop an argument about a focused topic inspired by a topic/text on the syllabus. It also asks you to address an imagined audience of food writers, food scholars, chefs and/or farming communities.</p> <p><u>Requirements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic proposal &amp; bibliography of 4+ sources   4-5 pages</li> <li>• Presentation to class   6-8 minutes</li> <li>• Final essay with bibliography   10-12 pages</li> </ul>	<p>60%</p>

## COURSE WEBSITE

On our CCLE website, you’ll find an electronic copy of the syllabus, links to assigned short readings/multimedia materials (as listed on syllabus) and details about each assignment. In addition, I’ll post PDFs of class slides to the website each week.

## **NOTE ON DEADLINES**

- Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on due date. Let me know if there are any activities or obligations that will make it difficult for you to meet a deadline. If you need an extension for medical or other unanticipated reasons, please make that request as early as possible. In general, late work will receive a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> grade deduction (3 points approx.) for each day overdue.

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

- CDH Learning Lab @ Rolfe: [www.cdh.ucla.edu/support/instructional-lab/](http://www.cdh.ucla.edu/support/instructional-lab/)
- Disabilities and Computing Program: [www.dcp.ucla.edu/](http://www.dcp.ucla.edu/)
- Instructional Media Lab (media/film library): [www.oid.ucla.edu/edtech/medialab](http://www.oid.ucla.edu/edtech/medialab)
- Office for Students with Disabilities: [www.osd.ucla.edu/](http://www.osd.ucla.edu/)
- Student Affairs: [www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/](http://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/)
- Student Conduct Code: [www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Code\\_choice.php](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Code_choice.php)
- University Libraries: [www.library.ucla.edu/](http://www.library.ucla.edu/)
- Writing Center: [www.wp.ucla.edu/ucla-undergraduate-student-writing-center.html](http://www.wp.ucla.edu/ucla-undergraduate-student-writing-center.html)

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The UCLA Student Conduct Code is a commitment among students and faculty to support the University's mission and your education and life at UCLA. Central to this code is academic integrity—which prohibits plagiarism, cheating, and submitting the same work in two classes without each instructor's permission. I am always available to talk through questions and challenges that arise around academic integrity.

## **COURSE ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you need academic accommodations to support your learning, please let me know. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides a wide range of resources for students as well as guidance around requesting accommodations related to exams, assignments and other facets of coursework at UCLA.

**SCHEDULE** [CR = Course Reader; CCLE = PDF or link on class website]

Week	Date	Readings & Assignments (Complete by date listed unless noted)
WEEK ONE	M 6/25	<input type="checkbox"/> IN CLASS: Course introduction and overview of assignments <input type="checkbox"/> IN CLASS: Screening of Niki Nakayama episode of <i>Chef's Table</i> (2015) and Manresa / David Kinch episode #1 of <i>Mind of a Chef</i> , Season 4 (2015)
	W 6/27	<input type="checkbox"/> MFK Fisher, <i>Consider the Oyster</i> (1941) <input type="checkbox"/> Kyla Tompkins, "Consider the Recipe" (2013)–CR
WEEK TWO	M 7/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Wendell Berry, "The Pleasures of Eating" (1989)–CR <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Gold, Selected restaurant reviews from <i>LA Times</i> –CR <input type="checkbox"/> E. Melanie Du Puis, "A Brief History of Food Advice in America" (2007)–CR
	W 7/4	<input type="checkbox"/> No class for fourth of July holiday
	Su 7/8	<input type="checkbox"/> Team digital exhibit proposal due–email as PDF to Prof. Carruth
WEEK THREE	M 7/9	<input type="checkbox"/> Selections from Roy Choi, <i>LA Son: My Life, My City, My Food</i> (2015) <input type="checkbox"/> Nicolette Niman, "Eating Animals" (2011)–CR
	W 7/11	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>City of Gold</i> film (2016)– stream online via CCLE Video Furnace <input type="checkbox"/> IN CLASS: Secondary research workshop
WEEK FOUR	M 7/16	<input type="checkbox"/> Cherríe Moraga, <i>Heroes and Saints</i> (1992) <input type="checkbox"/> Barry Estabrook, "On the Tomato Trail" (2010)–CR
	W 7/18	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Garden</i> film (2008)–stream online via CCLE Video Furnace
	Su 7/22	Essay proposal due–email as PDF to Prof. Carruth & submit to Turnitin
WEEK FIVE	M 7/23	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter, <i>Farm City</i> (2009) <input type="checkbox"/> Julie Guthman, "Fast Food / Organic Food" (2003)–CR
	W 7/25	<input type="checkbox"/> Allen Ginsberg, "A Supermarket in California" (1955)–CR <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Pollan, "Naturally / Supermarket Pastoral" (2001)–CR <input type="checkbox"/> IN CLASS: Screening of scenes from <i>Cooked</i> , Season 1 (2016)
	Su 7/29	<input type="checkbox"/> Team digital exhibit due–email link to Prof. Carruth
WEEK SIX	M 7/30	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Finley, "A Guerilla Gardener in South Central LA" (2013)-CCLE <input type="checkbox"/> IN CLASS: Continued discussion of <i>Farm City</i> in comparison to Finley talk
	W 8/1	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual presentation about research project in class (6-8 minutes)
	F 8/3	<input type="checkbox"/> Final essay with complete bibliography due–email as PDF to Prof. Carruth & submit to Turnitin