

**RHE 309K (45095): Topics in Writing  
Syllabus and Schedule  
Fall Term, 2009**

Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:45pm  
Parlin 104

Instructor: Josi Kate Berry, MA

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Office Hours: Parlin 408, Monday 10:30-12:00, Wednesday 2:00-3:30, and by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will examine the rhetoric surrounding food and food production in contemporary American culture. It will analyze everything from food manifestos, editorials and columns by food critics, advertisements, grocery stores, fast food restaurants, our own Student Union and local eateries, to the Food Network and the celebrity of chefs in an effort to understand competing visions of food's role in human life. This course will attempt to answer the following: What assumptions and values underlie the divergent representations of food in American culture? How does availability and price shape our attitudes toward food and eating? How do ads and packaging make arguments? How does context shape our relationship to food and eating? What contexts shape our relationship to food? How do they do it? What do your food choices argue about your values?

In this course, we will use the tools of rhetorical analysis to think, read, research and write critically about issues concerning food representation in both print and visual media.

Course Requirements:

Three 5-7 page papers, each revised and submitted twice

1 Visual/Oral Presentation

3 short (1pg, single spaced) summaries and/or rhetorical analyses

Daily homework and in class activities (peer reviews, SPURS peer reviews, quizzes, workshops, group work).

Grading policy:

Paper 1 (first submission): Advisory

Paper 1 (second submission): 10%

Paper 2 (average of first and second submissions): 25%

Presentation oral/visual: 5%

Paper 3 (average of first and second submissions): 30%

3 Short Summary and/or analytical/research assignments: 10%

Homework and in class work (such as group work, peer review, blog posts about readings, SPURS etc.): 20%

*(Please note that this course will use the +/- grading system)*

Required Texts:

*Everything's an Argument* by Andrea Lunsford, John Ruszkiewicz, and Keith Walters

*Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan

Assorted short readings provided by the Instructor

Late Paper Policy:

Papers are due **in class unless otherwise specified** on their due date. A paper will lose one full letter grade for every day it is late.

Tardiness:

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you arrive after I have taken attendance, you will be counted as tardy. Three tardies equal one absence.

The University of Texas Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6441 TTY.

SPURS:

Ours is one of nine Rhetoric and Writing classes from The University of Texas at Austin selected to participate in Students Partnering for Undergraduate Rhetoric Success, a program pairing UT rhetoric classes with eleventh grade AP English Language and Composition classes from underrepresented Texas high schools to provide exposure to, and promote confidence in, college writing. SPURS is a collaboration between the University's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and the Department of Rhetoric and Writing. Your participation will include ongoing electronic communication with students from our partnering class at Reagan High School. All communications with your partner(s) will take place in discussion forums on the SPURS website: <http://spurs.drw.utexas.edu/>. You will be given a login and password to access the website. In the forums you will craft a formal peer review of a rhetorical analysis essay your partner will write. I will make at least two site visits to Reagan, and our partnering class will visit us on UT's campus to attend one of our classes. You will be graded on the quality of your participation because, believe it or not, your serious involvement makes a significant positive difference (See grade break down).

Course Policies:

See Handout for policies on Attendance, Academic Honesty, etc.

*Note: This calendar may change depending on class interests and needs. I will inform you of any changes to assignments in class. Homework assignments and reading are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. The due dates for all major papers are listed. Please make note of these dates. It is your responsibility to obtain this information from your classmates or me if and when you are absent.*

### **Week 1**

Wednesday 8/26/09

Introduction to course and each other. Course Policies and Syllabus.

Assignment for 8/31/09: Read “Our National Eating Disorder” in *Omnivore’s Dilemma*, pgs. 1-11, and Handouts from *They Say, I Say*.

### **Week 2**

Monday 8/31

Introduction to SPURS with Eric Dieter, Program Coordinator. Discussion/Practice of Summarizing and Use of Quotes. Assignment for Wednesday 9/2: Read *Everything’s An Argument* “Arguments based on facts and reasons” and write first summary/response (1 page, single spaced) due Wednesday.

Wednesday 9/2

Logical arguments and claims, reasons, and evidence.

**Due**: Summary/Response

Assignment for Wednesday 9/9: Read *Omnivore’s Dilemma* pgs 15-26, 32-56, last paragraph of 64-84. Write a main claim for each section (to be handed in).

### **Week 3**

Monday 9/7

No Class

Wednesday 9/9

Discuss reading and practice analysis.

Assignment for Monday 9/14: *Everything’s An Argument* “Arguments based on values.”

Friday 9/11

**Due today**: Introductions to SPURS students due by noon.

### **Week 4**

Monday 9/14

Paper One Assignment. Discuss reading. Assignment for Wednesday 9/16: Summary Response of a print source you plan to analyze in paper one (op-ed, cookbook intro, food blog, etc.)

Wednesday 9/16

Analysis based on claims, reasons, evidence, and values.

**Due**: Summary/Response on print source you will analyze in your paper.

Assignment for Monday 9/21: researching the context of your print source worksheet. To be discussed in class 9/21. Read EAA “Thinking Rhetorically”

### **Week Five**

Monday 9/21

Discussion of Context exercise and Lecture/Practice on Paper Introductions.

Assignment for 9/23: Typed paper introduction due **via email** at 8am Wednesday 9/23.

Wednesday 9/23

Paper Introduction Workshop.

Assignment for Monday 9/28: Completed draft of paper one. Bring a hard copy to class for Peer Review (Mandatory: You cannot hand in your paper unless it is peer reviewed).

### **Week Six**

Monday 9/28

Peer Review in class. Be prepared with a draft of your paper.

Assignment for 9/30: First submission of paper 1 due Wednesday 9/30 in class.

Wednesday 9/30

**Due Today**: Paper One (first submission)

Listen to and Discuss Michael Pollan’s NPR spot. In-class exercise.

Assignment for 10/5: *Everything’s An Argument* “Arguments Based on Character” and “Arguments Based on Emotion”

### **Week Seven**

Monday 10/5

Revision Workshop

Assignment for 10/7: 134-158 in *Omnivore’s Dilemma*.

Wednesday 10/7

Discuss Reading. Visual Analysis

**Due**: Paper 1 (second submission)

Assignment for 10/12: pgs. 159-184 in *Omnivore’s Dilemma*

### **Week Eight**

Monday 10/12

Paper 2 assignment

Assignment: TBA

Wednesday 10/14

Researching for paper 2, SPURS peer review

Assignment: TBA

### **Week Nine**

Monday 10/19

Preparing for Paper 2/Oral presentations

Assignment: TBA

Wednesday 10/21  
Preparing for Presentations: Visuals and Ethos  
Assignment: Paper 2 due Monday 10/26

### **Week Ten**

Monday 10/26  
**Due**: Paper 2 (first submission)  
SPURS students in Class.

Wednesday 10/28: Oral/Visual Presentations

### **Week Eleven**

Monday 11/2  
Oral/Visual Presentations  
Assignment for 11/4: Reading TBA

Wednesday 11/4  
Stasis theory  
Assignment: Paper 2, second submission due Friday 11/6  
Friday 11/6  
**Due**: Paper 2, second submission

### **Week Twelve**

Monday 11/9  
Stasis Theory cont. Paper 3 assignment.  
Assignment: TBA

Wednesday 11/11  
Types of Arguments  
Assignment: TBA

### **Week Thirteen**

Monday 11/16  
Types of Arguments cont.  
Assignment: Paper introductions to my email by 8 AM 11/18

Wednesday 11/18  
Paper Introduction Workshop  
Assignment: Draft of Paper 3 due Monday 11/23 for Peer Review

### **Week 14**

Monday 11/23  
Peer Review

Wednesday 11/25

**Due:** Paper 3 (first submission)

**Week 15**

Monday 11/30

*Future of Food*

Assignment: Read Intro to *In Defense of Food*

Wednesday 12/2

Discussion Future of Food and Introduction to *In Defense of Food*

**Week 16**

**Due:** Paper 3 (Final Submission) by Noon