

Assignment: Food as History/Art/Science Project

Work-in-progress presentations

This assignment asks you to explore an aspect of food or eating about which you would like to learn more. **Topics could include and are not limited to: nutritional science, culinary arts, mindful eating, food justice, “alimentary identities,” domestic labor, farming, histories of food exchange, food reform movements, gastrodplomacy, food waste, food pollution, food deserts, etc.**

Your projects will be compiled and circulated as a (potentially genre-expansive) cookbook. If you'd like to propose something that would not fit into a cookbook (video, podcast, etc.), let's talk about it. If you would otherwise not want your project circulated, please let me know.

Assignment options:

Option 1: Create/select a recipe & write 1-2 paragraphs justifying your work. May include but is not limited to the following —

- Learn one practicable piece of information from food sciences, apply it intentionally to a recipe, and connect the process/experiment/result with one of the key concepts or questions that came up in class or one of the topics listed above
- Treat a recipe as an experiment (whatever that may mean to you) and reflect on learning, trial and error, epistemology (how we know what we know) in cooking and eating
- Recreate a family dish, reflecting on [memory](#), personal exchanges of knowledge/skills, family history, changes to the dish over time (whether in your family or in the history of the dish itself)
- Select a recipe and treat it as an art project. This might involve drawing, poetic reflections on the food, how it was made and where it came from, treating the act of cooking as a performance art piece, etc. Connect the process/experience/result with one of the key concepts or questions that came up in class or one of the topics listed above.
- Choose a recipe to share and annotate it with historical and nutritional information.

Option 2: Write an essay (review, op-ed, interview that delves into an important topic discussed in class). Below are some practical suggestions.

- Begin by selecting a newspaper, journal, magazine, or other publication where you would like to send your work and find an example of a text similar to the one you would like to develop
- Learn about the genre and expectations for publication: How many sentences are in each paragraph? Do the sentences tend to be long and explanatory or short and conversational? What balance of data/facts and narrative do you notice? What kind of people/disciplines/sectors do they cite? This will give you an idea of how to structure your own writing for this particular publication's audience.

- In terms of content: What is the takeaway and how is it presented? Is it a call to action? Is it an exploratory musing? Is it philosophical and/or political? Once you've selected and researched your topic and its counterarguments, articulate a takeaway, keeping in mind the stylistic practices you already know work for the publication you've chosen.
- Many non-academic publications do not go to pains to cite their sources or compellingly contextualize their arguments. Regardless of what publication you select, for the purposes of your assignment, your writing should be well-sourced, well-organized, and have a clear take-away. If necessary, I can help you adapt the references for publication after the fact.