Syllabus

ENGLISH 2123 SPECIAL THEMES IN LITERATURE
Culture: Food and Literature
Fall 2003
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge

INSTRUCTOR: Ms Garnet Branch, Master of Arts, U. of Houston
 Master of Arts, LSU

OFFICE: 240A Allen Hall
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday: Noon to 2 PM; Thursday: 1- 4 PM
EMAIL AND PHONE: gbranc1@lsu.edu, 578-3031
CLASSROOM: 31 Allen Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Through our study of literature we will examine the centrality of food in not only the sustenance of life, but also in the ‘making of meaning’ in such things as family, relationships, holidays and religions across cultures. As we look at representations of food in literature, we also explore the experience of hunger. A Service-Learning portion is required that involves about 2 visits each month (for a semester total of 15 hours) to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank or St Vincent de Paul’s. Documentation of hours will be submitted monthly to the Instructor along with a reflective journal of your experience.

SERVICE-LEARNING
Service-Learning is “a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students (a) participate in an organized service activity that meet identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility” (from Bringle & Hatcher, 1995). The Service-Learning portion involves helping at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul’s in a variety of activities. Primarily, time will be spent sorting and preparing food for delivery or service. However, on certain days, other tasks are required such as helping the office with mail-outs, sorting donated clothes, or other items. Learning will be assessed by your written analysis and synthesis with themes of the literature of you will be reading. Our contact person at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is Ms Bonnie Bordelon, Director of Volunteers. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is a not-for-profit agency that gathers, stores and redistributes food to charitable organizations that serve the needy. The Food Bank network includes more than 100 agencies in 12 parishes.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel
Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt
A Bite to Eat Place by edited by Andrea Adolph
Instructor prepared booklet available at Serve-U Center
COURSE OUTCOMES
In this course students will
• learn to read and interpret literature with a deeper understanding of character
  motivation and the economic influences on the production of literature
• develop the higher ordered cognitive skills of comparing and contrasting by writing
  about your own experiences that are similar to experiences in our text
• develop critical thinking and writing skills by writing journals of your service
  experiences that describe, narrate and analyze as you reflect
• learn to interact with people at local service organizations by participating in a variety
  of tasks essential to these organizations
• demonstrate an understanding of systemic social problems as illustrated in the
  literature and in the Baton Rouge community
• gain a broader perspective of the problems and strengths of our community through
  interaction with both the employees of the service organization and their patrons

COURSE WORK

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<th>DATE DUE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Essay on <em>Like Water for Chocolate</em></td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Between 1000-1500 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Poetry Explication of between 600-1000 words</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Reading Response and Service Report</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
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<td>December 1</td>
<td>Reading Response and Service Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24-</td>
<td>Collaborative Presentation</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Service Journal</td>
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Grade Scale: 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 50 and below F

TENTATIVE CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>IN-CLASS</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/25-9/3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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Like Water for Chocolate (LWC) Chapters 1 & 2
Quiz and Discussion

LWC, Chapters 3 & 4
Quiz and Discussion

LWC, Chapters 5 & 6
Quiz and Discussion

LWC, Chapters 7 & 8
Quiz and Discussion

LWC, Chapters 9 & 10
Quiz and Discussion

LWC, Chapters 11 & 12
Quiz and Discussion

Writing Workshop, LWC

10/1 DUE: Reading Response and Service Report One

10/3 Friday DUE: Essay One LWC, 3 PM, 240A Allen Hall

Introduction to Angela’s Ashes, Chapter 1
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 2 & 3
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 4 & 6
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 7 & 8
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 9-11
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 12-14
Quiz and discussion

Chapter 15-19
Quiz and discussion

10/29 Discuss Service-Learning

11/3 DUE: Reading Response and Service Report Two

Introduction to Poetry

11/10 Poetry Workshop

11/12 Poetry Workshop

11/14 Friday, DUE: Poetry Explication 240A Allen Hall

11/17 & 11/19 Supervised Study: Collaborative Presentations
11/24 - 12/3 Oral Collaborative Presentation

12/1 DUE: Reading Response and Service Report Three

12/9 December 9 DUE Service Journal, 3 PM 240A Allen Hall