

Sample Syllabus for *Food and Praxis: A Brief Rhetoric*



Course Description

This syllabus is designed for a first- or second-semester writing course rooted in rhetoric and argument.

Required Texts

- Rollins, Brooke, & Lee Bauknight, eds. *Food*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press, 2010.
- Clark, Carol Lea. *Praxis: A Brief Rhetoric*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press, 2009.

Assignments

- **Short Writing Assignments**
 - Based on exercises in *Food* and *Praxis*.
- **Essay 1: Finding and Defining an Argument**
 - Based on Activity 1.8 on *Praxis* p. 19
- **Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis of a Menu**
 - Based on Major Assignment 2 in *Food* (pp. 191-92) and Rhetorical Analysis Assignment in *Praxis* (pp. 113-114)
- **Sequenced Researched Argument Project**
 - **Contextualized Annotated Bibliography**
 - Based on Annotated Bibliography Assignment on *Praxis* pp. 134-135
 - **Essay 3: Causal Argument**
 - Based on the research completed for the annotated bibliography, each student will define a problem related to his or her food issue and compose an argumentative essay that examines the causes or consequences of this problem.
 - **Essay 4: Policy Argument**
 - The research project culminates with an argumentative essay that proposes a course of action to deal with the problem outlined in the causal argument. (Can be based on *Praxis* assignment on pp. 153-153 or on Major Assignment 5 in *Food*, pp. 197-198).
- **Note:** For a multimodal option, Essay 3 could be Major Assignment 3 from *Food* (pp. 193-94). The research project would then include only the Annotated Bibliography and the Policy Argument.

Schedule

Week 1: Course Intro: Our Food Ourselves

Readings: *Food*: “Introduction: Recipe Writing” (pp. 1-4); “Excerpts from *The Cooking Ape*” (pp. 7-19). *Praxis*: Ch. 1.

Assignment: Short Writing Assignment (SWA) based on *Food* p. 5.

Week 2: Food and Identity

Readings: *Food*: “Tasteless” (pp. 29-32); Day 1, Recipe 1 (pp. 45-61); “Food is Good” (pp. 63-70); “Dinner with Mario” (pp. 73-80); “The Culinary Seasons of My Childhood” (pp. 33-43). *Praxis*: Ch. 2.

Assignment: SWA based on Explore on *Food* p. 62 or Compose on *Food* p. 81.

Week 3: Food and Argument

Readings: *Food*: “The Pleasures of Eating” (pp. 21-27); “Fear Factories: The Case for Compassionate Conservatism—for Animals” (pp. 151-167).

Assignment: Essay 1: Finding and Defining and Argument (based on Activity 1.8 on *Praxis* p. 19)

Week 4: Rhetoric, Argument, and Analysis

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 3. *Food*: Reread “The Pleasures of Eating” (pp. 21-27); “Fear Factories: The Case for Compassionate Conservatism—for Animals” (pp. 151-167).

Assignments: SWA based on Activity 3.2 on *Praxis* p. 67 or Compose on *Food* p. 28 or Invent on *Food* p. 167.

Week 5: Rhetoric, Argument, and Analysis

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 4. *Food*: “Dining Out” (pg 83-90).

Assignment: SWA based on Explore on *Food* p. 91.

Week 6: Writing a Rhetorical Analysis

Reading: Sample rhetorical analysis (*Praxis* pp. 171-174).

Assignment: Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis of a Menu, based on Major Assignment 2 in *Food* (pp. 191-92).

Week 7: Research and Argument

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 5. *Food*: “A Healthy Constitution” (pp. 109-111); “Beyond Organic” (pp. 113-116).

Assignment: SWA based on Explore on *Food* p. 111.

Week 8: Conducting Research

Readings: *Praxis*: Appendix (Documenting Sources). *Food*: “Organic Foods: Do Eco-Friendly Attitudes Predict Eco-Friendly Behaviors?” (pp. 125-139).

Assignment: SWA based on Invent on *Food* 139.

Week 9: Causal Arguments

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 6. *Food*: “The Carnivore’s Dilemma” (pp. 169-173).

Assignment: Annotated Bibliography, based on *Praxis* assignment on pp. 134-35.

Week 10: Causal Arguments

Readings: *Food*: “Who Cooks?” (pp. 93-100); “A Woman’s Place?” (pp. 101-105); “What’s That Smell in the Kitchen?” (pp. 107); clips from Food Network Shows: *Giada at Home*, *Barefoot Contessa*, *Guy’s Big Bite*, etc.

Assignment: SWA based on Activity 6.1 on *Praxis* p. 143.

Week 11: Revision

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 7. Find sample causal arguments for students to read.

Assignment: Essay 3: Causal Argument

Week 12: Policy Arguments

Readings: *Food*: “Attention Whole Foods Shoppers” (pg 141-149); “Declare Your Independence” (pg 175-187).

Assignment: SWA based on Invent or Explore on *Food* p. 188.

Week 13: Policy Arguments

Readings: Review *Praxis* pp. 143-154.

Assignments: SWAs based on Activity 6.2 and 6.3 on *Praxis* p. 146

Week 14: Peer Editing

Readings: Review *Praxis* pp. 165-168.

Assignment: Essay 4: Policy Argument