Course Description

This is a writing course focused on food and drink from the field to the table. In addition to writing longform stories, students will develop professional-style blogs, find their voices, post regularly, explore what multimedia adds to their online writing, and build audiences. Beyond the intensive writing in this course, students will be introduced to the technical aspects of blogging that are required of today's writers.

Required Texts and Materials

We'll have readings from Best Food Writing 2012, edited by Holly Hughes. It's $16 or so from the University of Iowa book store, probably less online. Additionally, some readings will come from the Web (where, you know, bloggers tend to write) and from you. I'll provide some additional pieces, too.

You are required to check my blog at food.jmc.uiowa.edu for reading links.

Grading

Grading is the worst part of teaching, really, but until we figure out something better, that's what we'll do.

It should go without saying that grading, especially in a writing class, somewhat subjective. It should also go without saying that simply meeting an assignment's requirements does not entitle you to an A. Rather, it entitles you to a passing grade. A's are reserved to exemplarity work. A+ is only used in exceptional circumstances.

It should also be noted that a grade does not directly reflect how much work you feel you did on an assignment; it reflects the idea and its execution.

Final grades breakdown like so:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100%</td>
<td>74 – 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93%</td>
<td>70 – 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88 – 89%</td>
<td>68 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 87%</td>
<td>64 – 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83%</td>
<td>60 – 63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78 – 79%</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance 10%
This is pretty simple: I take attendance, if you’re not in class, I mark it down. At the end of the semester, I count up how many times you weren’t there. Arriving in class more than 20 minutes late counts as unexcused absence.

If you have 3 or more unexcused absences, you’ll automatically lose 5% of your final grade.
If you have 5 or more unexcused absences, you’ll automatically lose 10% of your final grade.

Participation and in-class work 10%
We’ll do a fair amount of in-class workshopping and discussion. You’ll need to be in class and actively participating for that to work. You’ll also be responsible for choosing and distributing a piece of food writing and leading an hour-long discussion and critique of it. Please schedule doctor appointments, interviews, tryouts, vacations and other things outside of class time. And please don’t text or check Facebook or read I Can Has Cheezburger or whatever because it’s distracting. And it’s not hard to tell when you’re doing these.

Blog 40%
Once you’ve have your blog pitch accepted, I will expect you to blog regularly. You are required have a posted every Monday and Wednesday of the semester and write a total of at least 20 posts by the end of the semester. Included in this is a small project that includes pitching your blog.

Stories 40%
You’ll write two 1,500- to 3,000-word stories. They can build off of work you’ve done for your blog, as long as they’re original to this class.
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Policies and Procedures

Administrative Home The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml].

Electronic Communication University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Academic Fraud Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Accommodations for Disabilities A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Understanding Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment at www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. (Operations Manual, Part IV, 16. See items e, h, and i.)

*The CLAS policy statements have been summarized from the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and The University of Iowa Operations Manual.
The Iowa Dozen
As one of more than 104 programs in journalism and mass communication accredited by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC), we must assess student learning to assure that each of our graduates meets the following standards.

We learn to
1. Write correctly, clearly and well.
2. Conduct research and gather information responsibly.
3. Edit and evaluate carefully.
4. Use media technologies thoughtfully.
5. Apply statistical concepts accurately.

We value
6. Free speech and First Amendment principles for all individuals and groups.
7. A diverse global community.
8. Creativity and independence.

We explore
10. Theories and concepts.
11. The history, structure and economy of media institutions.
12. The role of media in shaping cultures.