Write about your own experiences with food and your favorite family recipes!

Food is used in literary texts to interpret culture, history, and politics from an international scale to an interpersonal one. In this sense, food acts as a gateway to important cultural issues. In order to identify the meanings of food for the different cultures of the Americas as reflected in literature, we will explore the strategies by which literary texts represent the nexus of geographical, cultural, political, and economic forces that interact in order to influence our culinary value system, food choices, health, and nutritional status. While we will engage the cultural issues that literary food references reveal, we will also pay close attention to the stylistic devices that authors use to transmit ideas about food. Through these approaches, we will characterize the genre of “food writing” and theorize the nature of cookbooks and recipes as forms of literature. We will also examine the use of the recipe as a narrative device within the genre of the novel. This course is part of the new upper-division general education Theme V, Consuming Interests: Food and Society.

Possible Readings:

Esquivel, Laura. *Like Water for Chocolate.*
Reichl, Ruth. *Tender at The Bone: Growing Up at The Table.*
Loomis, Susan Herrmann. *On Rue Tatin: Living and Cooking In a French Town.*