



AMBROSE
SEMINARY

**The Food Course: Remembering Jesus when we eat and drink
NT 645**

May 2-6, 2011

Instructor: Dr. Jo-Ann Badley

Contacting the Instructor

E-mail address: jbadley@mhgs.edu

Room: Class times: Monday to Friday, May 2-6, 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00

Course Description

Food, our daily bread: certainly calories that sustain us, but also connections to the earth which produces it, to other people with whom we eat, and to God who created and sustains all. The current public interest in food production, distribution and preparation is an opportunity to reflect theologically on all these connections. What does it mean to eat in a holy way? How do we read scripture as faithful eaters? This course will use the biblical texts that shape the Lord's Supper and literature from the public discussion as a basis for Christian reflection on God and society.

Course Objectives

Ambrose Seminary affirms that Christians are called to bear witness everywhere and in every aspect of life to the new creation of all things in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Eating is one important aspect of life where we can explore what a Christian witness to the new creation in Jesus Christ might look like. Further, the Seminary suggests preparation for ministry is an integration of spirit, intellect and ministry. Food production, distribution and preparation is an opportunity to reflect theologically from all these perspectives.

Students who successfully complete the course will

- identify how godliness is manifested in the ways we handle food (eat and cook), considering how those daily habits contribute to our identity in Christ as individuals and communities of faith;
- interpret Bible (both Old and New Testaments) faithfully and relevantly;
- reflect theologically on the common and complex topic of food, bearing witness to the new life in Christ that is a part of our everyday experience;
- communicate effectively and relevantly.

Required Textbook

Smith, Gordon T. *A Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Recommended Books

Campbell, Cathy C. *Stations of the Banquet: Faith Foundations for Food Justice*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2003.

Davis, Ellen F. *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Fields, Leslie Leyland, ed. *The Spirit of Food: 34 Writers on Feasting and Fasting Toward God*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2010.

Kass, Leon R. *The Hungry Soul: Eating and the Perfecting of Our Nature*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Visser, Margaret. *The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities and Meaning of Table Manners*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 1991.

Course Schedule

Monday May 2	I. Introduction: Preparing the Feast A. Why Food? B. What is a Theological Conversation? C. Resurrection and Eating
	Required Reading: Luke 24 Isaiah 25:6-10a Eberstadt, Mary. "Is Food the New Sex?" <i>Policy Review</i> 153 (2009). http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/38245724.html Fields, Leslie Leyland. "A Feast Fit for the King." <i>Christianity Today</i> , November 2010, 22-28. http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/november/9.22.html Movie: <i>Babette's Feast</i> , directed by Gabriel Axel, 1987. Wood, Charles M. "Part One: Becoming Theological." In <i>Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry</i> , by Charles M. Wood and Ellen Blue, 1-24. Nashville: Abingdon, 2008. Recommended Reading: Dineson, Isak. "Babette's Feast." In <i>Anecdotes of Destiny</i> , 23-68. New York: Random House, 1958.

	<p>Harding, Jeremy. "What We're About to Receive." <i>London Review of Books</i>, May 13 2010, 3-8.</p> <p>Moberly, R.W.L. "Chapter 2: Christ as the key to scripture: the journey to Emmaus ." In <i>The Bible, Theology, and Faith: A Study of Abraham and Jesus</i>. Cambridge Studies in Christian Doctrine, edited by C. Gunton and D.W. Hardy. Cambridge: University Press, 2000.</p> <p>Mullins, Maire. "The Gift of Grace: Isak Dineson's <i>Babette's Feast</i>." In <i>The Gift of Story: Narrating Hope in a Postmodern World</i>, edited by Emily Griesinger and Mark Eaton, 279-96. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2006.</p> <p>Schememann, Alexander. "Chapter 1: The Life of the World." In <i>For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy</i>, 11-22. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995.</p>
<p>Tuesday May 3</p>	<p>II. Food and Human Identity: Glorify God in your bodies (1 Cor.6:20)</p> <p>A. Desire and its Subversion: Eating to Perfection</p> <p>B. Christian Spirituality and the Body</p>
	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>Exodus 15:22-16:36 (Food in the Wilderness)</p> <p>Matthew 15:29-39</p> <p>Mark 6:30-46 and 8:1-10</p> <p>Luke 9:10-17</p> <p>John 6:1-14</p> <p>Andersen, Arnold. "Chapter 5: Men, Body Image and Eating Disorders." In <i>Males with Eating Disorders</i>, 54-74. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1990.</p> <p>Brumberg, Joan Jacobs. "Chapter 4: Body Projects." In <i>The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls</i>. New York: Random House, 1997.</p> <p>Paulsell, Stephanie. "Chapter 5: Nourishing the Body." In <i>Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice</i>, 75-96. The Practices of Faith Series, edited by D.C. Bass. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.</p> <p>Smith, G.T. "Chapter 7: Nourishment." In <i>Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.</p> <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <p>Kimball, Cynthia Neal. "Radical-Reformation Theology and the Recovery of the Proper Incarnational View of the Self." In <i>Why Psychology Needs Theology: A Radical-Reformation Perspective</i>, edited by Alvin Dueck and Cameron Lee, 99-118. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.</p> <p>Martin, Courtney. "Chapter 8: All-or-Nothing Nation: Diets, Extreme Makeovers, and the Obesity Epidemic." In <i>Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters</i>, 167-89. New York: Free Press, 2007.</p> <p>Murphy, Nancey. "Theological Resources for Integration." In <i>Why Psychology Needs Theology: A Radical-Reformation Perspective</i>, edited by Alvin Dueck and Cameron Lee, 3-27. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.</p>

	<p>Soskice, Janet Martin. "Love and Attention: Incarnateness." In <i>The Kindness of God: Metaphor, Gender, and Religious Language</i>, 7-34. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.</p> <p>Slow Food manifesto. http://www.slowfood.com/about_us/eng/manifesto.lasso</p> <p>Visser, M. "Chapter 4, Dinner is Served, "Feeding, Feasts, and Females." In <i>The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities and Meaning of Table Manners</i>, 272-295. Toronto: HarperCollins, 1991.</p>
<p>Wednesday May 4</p>	<p>III. Food and the Community: Be holy as I am holy A. Food Boundaries: Purity and Identity B. Eating with Gentiles</p>
	<p>Required Reading: Leviticus 11 Acts 10 and 15 Davis, Ellen F. "A Wholesome Materiality: Reading Leviticus." In <i>Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible</i>, 80-100. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Milgrom, Jacob. "The Rationale for Biblical Impurity." In <i>The JPS Torah Commentary: Numbers</i>, 344-46. Philadelphia and New York: JPS, 1990. Smith, G.T. Chapters 1-4. In <i>Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. Film: <i>Big Night</i>, directed by Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci, 1996.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Boyarin, Daniel. "Chapter 1: Circumcision, Allegory and Universal 'Man'." In <i>A Radical Jew: Paul and the Politics of Identity</i>. Contraversions, Critical Studies in Jewish Literature, Culture, and Society, edited by Daniel Boyarin and Chana Kronfeld. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994. Douglas, Mary. "Chapter 7: Land Animals, Pure and Impure." In <i>Leviticus as Literature</i>, 134-51. Oxford: University Press, 1999. Klawans, Jonathan. "Ritual Purity, Moral Purity, and Sacrifice in Jacob Milgrom's <i>Leviticus</i>." <i>Religious Studies Review</i> 29 (2003): 19-28. Martyn, J.L. "The Covenants of Hagar and Sarah." In <i>Faith and History: Essays in Honor of Paul W. Meyer</i>, edited by J.T. Carroll, 160-92. Atlanta: Scholars, 1990. Paulsell, Stephanie. "Chapter 6: Blessing our Table Life." In <i>Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice</i>, 97-111. The Practices of Faith Series, edited by D.C. Bass. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002. Radner, Ephraim. "Introduction," and "Leviticus 11." In <i>Leviticus</i>, 17-28 and 106-19. Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible. Grand Rapids: BrazosPress, 2008. Wilken, Robert L. "Leviticus as a Book of the Church." <i>Consensus</i> 23 (1997): 7-20.</p>

<p>Thursday May 5</p>	<p>IV. Food and the Earth: Fair balance (2 Cor.8:13) A. Eating with Justice B. Eating as Stewards</p>
	<p>Required Reading: Deuteronomy 27:1-28:46 Luke 14:1-24 Romans 8 Film: <i>Fast Food Nation</i>, directed by Richard Linklater. 2006. Smith, G.T. Chapters 5-6. In <i>Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005. Wirzba, Norman. "Placing the Soul: An Agrarian Philosophical Principle." In <i>The Essential Agrarian Reader: The Future of Culture, Community, and the Land</i>, 80-97. Foreword by Barbara Kingsolver. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2003.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Cavanaugh, William T. "Detachment and Attachment." In <i>Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire</i>. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008. Davis, Ellen F. "Seeing with God: Israel's Poem of Creation" and "Covenantal Economics: The Biblical Case for a Local Economy." In <i>Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible</i>, 42-65 and 101-119. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.</p>
<p>Friday May 6</p>	<p>V. Conclusion: Gathering the Fragments A. Eating at the Eschatological Banquet B. Drinking the Water of Life in the Renewed Creation</p>
	<p>Required Reading: Exodus 11-12 and Deuteronomy 16 (Passover texts) Matthew 26:20-30 Luke 22:14-39 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34 Isaiah 65: 17-25 Berry, Wendell. "The Pleasures of Eating." http://www.ecoliteracy.org/essays/pleasures-eating (Originally published in <i>What Are People For?</i> New York: North Point Press, 1990.) Smith, G.T. Chapters 8-10. In <i>Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church</i>. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Campbell, Cathy C. "Station 12: The Banquet." In <i>Stations of the Banquet: Faith Foundations for Food Justice</i>, 221-44. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2003. Klawans, Jonathan. "Interpreting the Last Supper: Sacrifice, Spiritualization, and Anti-Sacrifice." <i>New Testament Studies</i> 48 (2002): 1-17.</p>

	Longacre, Doris Janzen. "Less with More," "Change—an Act of Faith," and "Building a Simpler Diet." In <i>More-with-Less Cookbook: Suggestions by Mennonites on How to Eat Better and Consume Less of the World's Limited Food Resources</i> , 12-31. Introduction by Mary Emma Showalter Eby. Scottdale, PA & Kitchener, Ont: Herald Press, 1976.
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Post Course due dates

Monday May 16	Research paper proposal due by noon Submit electronically to jbadley@mhgs.edu
Tuesday May 24	Book/Movie Review due by midnight Submit electronically to jbadley@mhgs.edu
Monday July 11	Research paper due by noon Submit electronically to jbadley@mhgs.edu

Course Requirements

1. Reading for Class: as indicated on the Course Schedule above. Note that a film should be watched in preparation for class on

- Monday (May 2): Babette's Feast;
- Wednesday (May 4): Big Night;
- Thursday (May 5): Fast Food Nation

2. Cultural Artifact Presentation:

Presentations will be scheduled for May 3, 4, 5, 6 (Tuesday to Friday; instructor will present a sample on the first day)

Value: 20% of the final grade

Length: maximum 5 minutes presentation; 10 minutes discussion
(total: 15 minutes)

- bring some physical thing to class from daily life that has to do with food (e.g. movie clip; song (lyrics and CD); a recipe; report of experiments with eating disorder clients; plan for a community garden; almost anything food related);
- describe what it is and why it is significant for our consideration;
- open a brief class discussion with one question (to be given to the instructor before the presentation begins);
- evaluation will be based on how effectively the student presents the material, connects the artifact to Christian practice, and manages the brief class conversation.

3. Entering the Conversation (A Book/Movie Review):

Due May 24 (Tuesday) by midnight

Value: 20% of the final grade

Maximum length

5 pages (about 1300-1500 words)

- choose a contemporary movie or book that has food as a significant theme (some examples are listed at the end of the syllabus, almost any movie or book can be chosen);
- identify the main theme of the movie or novel;
- create a hospitable (generative and constraining) conversation with a biblical text or idea from scripture;
- the review will demonstrate how the book/movie contributes to your understanding of the biblical text and how the biblical text enriches your appreciation for the theme of the book/movie?
- Note: we will use movies and books during the class so that students have a model for this review.
- Submit this paper electronically as an attachment; the instructor will acknowledge receipt of the paper within 24 hours of receiving it. Please name your file in this way: **Ambrose (student name) review**. If you do not receive notice that the instructor received your work, it is your responsibility to initiate correspondence to ensure that the assignment arrived.

4. Paper Proposal:

Due May 16 (Monday) at noon

Value: 10% of the final grade

Maximum length: 1 page (300 words) plus bibliography list

- Choose a research topic having anything to do with food;
- State the question of your research as an opening question;
- Describe briefly your field of study; you do not need to have a thesis statement, but you should have a topic with limited scope.
- Required sources:
Identify at least 10 sources and list them in correct academic form:
3 must be articles or essays
2 must be 'secular' discussions of your topic
2 must be recent (2009 or 2010)
- Submit this paper electronically as an attachment; the instructor will acknowledge receipt of the paper within 24 hours of receiving it. Please name your file in this way: **Ambrose (student name) proposal**. If you do not receive notice that the instructor received your work, it is your responsibility to initiate correspondence to ensure that the assignment arrived.

5. Research Paper with theological reflection:

Due: July 11 (Monday) at noon

Value: 50%

Maximum length

12-15 pages (about 3500-4500 words)

- A good research paper has a central thesis that is stated clearly early in the paper and supported, in an organized and coherent way, throughout the discussion.
- A good theological reflection includes some point of contact with either scripture or particular Christian doctrines.
- A good paper follows the style and citation conventions of either *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (6th Edition) or *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Edition).
- Submit this paper electronically as an attachment; the instructor will acknowledge receipt of the paper within 24 hours of receiving it. Please name your file in this way: **Ambrose (student name) paper**. If you do not receive notice that the instructor received your work, it is your responsibility to initiate correspondence to ensure that the assignment arrived.

Course Grade

Cultural Artifact Presentation	20%
Book/Movie Review	20%
Paper Proposal	10%
Research Paper	50%

Important Notes:

1. Registration and payment in full is open up to the morning of the first day of class.

Students may drop this class and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 1 pm on Tuesday, on the first day of class). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline.

Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 1pm on Friday, or the fourth day of class). Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

All registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or on the website at www.ambrose.edu/registrar.

2. Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy: The seminary is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

3. Any coursework due outside of May 2-6 is to be submitted electronically to ibadley@mhgs.edu.

Please name your file in this way: **Ambrose (student name) assignment title**.

The instructor will acknowledge receipt of all assignments within 24 hours. If you do not receive notice that the instructor received your work, it is your responsibility to initiate correspondence to ensure that the assignment arrived.

4. Extensions: Coursework submitted after the final due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for Time Extension, will receive a grade of "F." Requests for a Time Extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; and
- the student submits a Time Extension application to the Registrar on or before two weeks prior to the due date, as indicated in the course syllabus.

5. The professor will return all papers electronically to students. Comments will be inserted into the file submitted by the student.

Additional Bibliography: (note: this is only a small selection of what is available)

Butturini, Paula. *Keeping the Feast: One Couple's Story of Love, Food, and Healing in Italy*. New York: Riverhead, 2010.

Ehrlich, Elizabeth. *Miriam's Kitchen: A Memoir*. New York: Viking, 1997.

Gilbert, Elizabeth. *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

Miles, Sara. *Take This Bread: The Spiritual Memoir of a Twenty-First-Century Christian*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2007.

Pollan, Michael. *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*. New York: Penguin, 2009.

Reichl, Ruth. *Tender at the Bone: Growing up at the Table*. New York: Broadway Books, 1998.

Smith, Alisa, and J.B. MacKinnon. *Plenty: Eating Locally on the 100 Mile Diet*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2007.

Winne, Mark. *Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008.