

English 8583: Selected Topics in Language and Literature

## Food and Identity in Literature

Dr. Jervette Ward

Thursday 5:00 – 7:50

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**Description:** Through food and literature, we are able to learn about our own identities and cultures, and we are able to explore the identities and cultures of those not like ourselves. Food may be considered a necessity, and literature may be considered a luxury; however, the combination of the two can be viewed as a worthy indulgence. This course will look at the role of food in literature, and it will explore the ways in which the two have influenced each other. In addition, we will consider the ways that culture and identity have been shaped by food in narrative works.

**Possible Texts Include:**

*The Taste of Empire: How Britain's Quest for Food Shaped the Modern World* by Collingham

*The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African American Culinary History in the Old South* by Twitty

*Zora Neale Hurston on Florida Food* by Opie

*Southern Food and Civil Rights: Feeding the Revolution* by Opie

*A Square Meal: A Culinary History of the Great Depression* by Ziegelman

*Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* by Mintz



