

ENG 217
WRITING REFLECTIVE ESSAYS
Fall 2015 :: Kayla Bruce
T/TH 12:00-1:15pm

“Now, when I pass through a corner of town or ride a rural highway, my head may flood
with the voices and experiences of people who have lived and died there. Their
enlargement of my life will be a lasting source of gratitude”
-- Deborah Brandt



This is an advanced interdisciplinary writing course that will ask students to articulate the ways their lives have been enlarged. The course focuses on asking questions about past experience and how those experiences can shape identities, specifically thinking through experiences with food. Through in class discussion, workshops, written and oral reflection, and the reading of a food memoir and supplemental texts, students will begin to identify revelatory and meaningful patterns and processes in nonfiction writing.

Some of the questions to be explored are:

- 1) How do published or public authors represent their lived experiences in nonfiction texts?
- 2) What is privileged or valued about personal experience?
- 3) How is personal experience constructed or represented?
- 4) How have your individual past experiences impacted who you are, and how do you translate those experiences for outside readers?
- 5) What genres best represent your lived experiences, and how can you thoughtfully and articulately format your ideas into those genres in order to be effective pieces of nonfiction writing?