This course examines the ways in which and the extent to which culinary narratives—writings of cooking and eating—are employed to explore and describe one’s experiences as racialized and gendered body. Women and people of color are often seen as “naturally” bearers of food, and inherently bearers of cultural knowledge. We will explore how these notions are constructed. Writings about cooking and eating offer a productive field of study for exploring how these social structures are created and maintained that govern not only bodies and desires, but also notions of belonging. These texts offer a fruitful ground to examine male/female, raw/cooked, self/other, inside/outside, familiar/foreign, and even food/not-food. This course will be especially interested in the ways in which food narratives open up avenues for action and agency.

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