

Culinary Comedy of Manners

4 monthly sessions, including one meeting at The Culinary Literacy Center at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Tuesdays, Mar 31, Apr 21, May 26 at the Rosenbach and Jun 9 at the CLC | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Led by Daniel Wolkow, instructor at Penn State Abington and Rowan University

A course for those who like to read, and like to eat, and like to laugh. The Culinary Comedy of Manners takes us on a three century tour exploring three comic plays that satirize the follies and eccentricities of the upper classes. While on this tour, we'll also sample the gastronomic delights of each time period in a way that connects the food to our literary conversation. We will meet at The Rosenbach for three sessions, in which your professor will bring specially prepared period food to sample. The last session will meet at the Culinary Literacy Center of the Free Library of Philadelphia for a cooking demonstration of the foods enjoyed throughout the course.

Although the authors of these plays were satirizing the manners of their own societies, these works still sparkle with relevance today, in how they use wit to skewer issues of money, desire and falsehood. We are still fascinated with “how the other half lives.” By examining these plays, we also uncover our own manners.

Required Texts:

Moliere's *Tartuffe*

Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals*

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Week 1, March 31 at The Rosenbach:

We will begin the course with a general discussion about reading plays as literature and move to the comedy of manners genre, including its history, importance and relevance today.

After, we will discuss Moliere's *Tartuffe*. During our discussion we will enjoy some French culinary delights of the time.

Week 2, April 21 at The Rosenbach:

This week we will discuss Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals*. We will also talk about the importance of the plays setting of Bath, England. Victuals this week are healthy foods one might find during a visit to the baths in the 18th Century.

Week 3, May 26 at The Rosenbach:

This week we will discuss Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Food fit for the late 19th century taking of tea will be shared this week.

Week 4, June 9: at The Culinary Literacy Center at the Free Library of Philadelphia:

This week we will have a cooking demonstration of some of the food we have sampled during the course as well as a discussion of our final thoughts about the comedy of manners genre.

Daniel Asher Wolkow has been teaching at the collegiate level for twenty years in Literature and Theatre. He spent ten years as the head of Theatre and Administrator of the Performing Art Center at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell where he taught acting and stage production. He also directed the campus productions which included, "The Importance of Being Earnest", "Endgame", "True West" and "Dracula".