

Southwestern University

Dear Advanced-Entry Seminar student,

First of all, welcome to Southwestern University! My name is Francis Mathieu and as your Advanced-Entry (or AES) professor, I am delighted that you have selected *Food, Health & the Environment*. I love teaching in the program, and as a teacher and a person, I feel passionate about this topic, which is both current and relevant to everyone's life. Therefore, I look forward to working with you soon.

The overarching goal of the Advanced-Entry Seminar program is to introduce you to SU's college-level expectations as well as to provide training in core academic skills that will serve you throughout your studies. These skills are: analytical reading; academic paper writing; critical and creative thinking; research; and informed discussion. I have developed a series of hands-on AES workshops, spread out throughout the course, to bring you up to speed with those skills. The course theme and the multiple connections between food, health and the environment will provide a fertile context for you to hone these essential skills in a *caring* environment geared toward student success. The word *caring* is key here, and means that your learning will take place in a forgiving academic environment that will allow for mistakes, failures, and growth. You will have plenty of opportunities to edit, improve and resubmit your work as you learn to master the aforementioned skills.

To whet your appetite, I will now provide a succinct explanation of how the course will unfold. We will first approach the course theme through the vast array of harmful additives and chemicals that are found in the food people eat on a daily basis, wreaking havoc with their bodies. We will then investigate industrial agriculture and food production to study how it is detrimental not only to human health, but also to the environment, which in turn further hurts people's health. But as we shall see, it is not all doom and gloom: we will also study solutions and alternatives to problems.

Feel free to e-mail me at mathieuf@southwestern.edu if you would like to introduce yourself or if you have any question. I am looking forward to meeting you in the spring. In the meantime, happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Francis Mathieu