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21W.730-4 Writing on Contemporary Issues: Food for Thought:
Writing and Reading about the Cultures of Food
Fall 2008

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Homework #4***Due in class Th 9/18***

1) READ “Table Manners” (p. 131-54) from *The Hungry Soul* by Leon Kass [eReserve]. Kass is an M.D. and Ph.D. whose main field of endeavor is bioethics. His work in general is philosophical in approach, and hews to a decidedly conservative perspective.

2) WRITE: Select one sentence from this piece and write a response. Pick a passage that echoes your own thoughts, or challenges them, or puzzles you, or delights you—your choice. (Before doing so, make sure you have read the entire piece and understand what the sentence means in context.)

NOTE: By “respond,” I don’t mean to explain the passage but to amplify it, extend it, question it, talk back to it—in short, to think about it in relation to something you know or have experienced.

➤ *1 page double-spaced.*

3) FOR DISCUSSION: What in “Table Manners” surprised and/or interested you? Why? What do you make of Kass’s contention that etiquette and ethics are continuous? What does Kass mean by etiquette, exactly?

➤ *Thursday’s class will begin with a short quiz on this reading.*