

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Fall 2013

Discipline: English Writing

Course Number and Title: ENWR 1559-502 Travel Writing

Division: Lower Division

Faculty Name: Gregory Mason

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Travel writing regularly about encounters on a journey is an excellent way to process all that happens along the way. As you sort through recollections and find the right words to express them, you teach yourself the meaning of your experiences, and your memories become valued possessions. A Semester at Sea voyage provides a perfect opportunity to enrich and enhance a travel experience, first through alert observation, and then through journaling and essay writing, both about the experience of being at sea, and about the places where we make landfall during the voyage. It becomes both an outer and an inner journey of discovery. Prior to each port of call, the class will prepare by reading professional travel essays that both inform us about the upcoming location and model a sensitive and insightful written response. Travel writing, like other kinds of writing is a skill that is improved through practice and coaching. Regular peer reviewing and critiquing workshops will help sharpen both the powers of observation and writing style of each class member. As a class project and also a personal possession, each student will revise and complete a series of personal essays on chosen ports of call.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To enrich and deepen each participant's travel experience by encouraging a more discerning and focused attention to all the places, people, events, and circumstances we encounter

To enhance our understanding and appreciation of the ports of call on our voyage through reading sensitive and informed articles by professional writers, with whom, of course, we may not always agree

To practice and improve each student's writing skills through regular, informal assignments, followed up by peer review workshops and revision.

For each student to develop a portfolio of revised, finished pieces on our ports of call, some of which might be submitted for publication

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Don George
TITLE: *Lonely Planet's Guide to Travel Writing*
PUBLISHER: Lonely Planet Publications
ISBN #: 978-1-74104-701-1
DATE/EDITION: 2009

AUTHOR: Lavinia Spalding
TITLE: *Writing Away*
PUBLISHER: Travelers' Tales, Solas House, Palo Alto , CA
ISBN #: 9781932361674
DATE/EDITION: 2009

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

A1- August 26: Introduction. Travel Writing and Travelers' Tales

B1- August 27

A2-August 28: Getting Started as a Travel Writer

The basics and some warm-up calisthenics

Readings: S xii-xix, 1-17; G 6-9

Preparation for Saint Petersburg; readings about Saint Petersburg TBA

August 29-September 1: St. Petersburg

B2- September 2

A3- September 3: Finding Your Personal Focus as Writer

Share and peer review class journals on Saint Petersburg

Readings: S 18-28; G 12-22; writings about Hamburg

Preparation for Hamburg; readings TBA

B3- September 4

September 5-8: Hamburg

A4- September 9: Creating a Structure

Share and peer review class journals on Hamburg

Elements of structure in good travel writing (G 23-39)

Preparation for Antwerp and Le Havre: readings TBA

B4-September 10

A5- September 11: Discipline and Focus

Share and peer review class journals on Antwerp and Le Havre

Developing and maintaining discipline and focus (S 29-50)

COLLECT FIRST ROUND OF JOURNAL ENTRIES

September 12-14: Antwerp

September 15-16: Le Havre

B5- September 17

A6- September 18: Painting the Scene

Share and peer review class journals on Antwerp and Le Havre

Attention to Details: Bringing Your Story to Life (S 51-67) (G 40-49)

Preparation for Ireland: readings TBA

B6- September 19

September 20-23: Dublin

A7- September 24: Travel Writing as Creative Non Fiction

Share and peer review class journals on Lisbon and Cadiz

Elements of Style: voice, pacing and music (G 49-53), (S 68-86)

Prepare for Casablanca; readings TBA

B7- September 25

A8- September 26: Travel Writing as an Inner Journey

Share and peer review class journals on Casablanca

Journal to the Center. Travel writing as personal discovery (S 87-104)

September 27-28: Lisbon

September 29: in Transit

September 30-October 1: Cadiz

October 2: No Class. Morocco. Preparation.

October 3-6: Casablanca

B8- October 7

A9- October 8: Review and Work-shopping on Items of Unfinished Business

In-class writing TBA

COLLECT SECOND ROUND OF JOURNAL ENTRIES

B9- October 9

October 10: Study Day

A10- October 11: Keeping Your Writing Fresh

Keeping Your Writing Fresh, saving important scraps, making it new (S 105-139)

B10- October 12

A11- October 13: Learning from the Pros
Preparation for Ghana; readings TBA
Learning from the Pros; Examples of Good Travel Writing (G 54-88)
In-class writing exercises

B11- October 14

October 15-16: Tema
October 17-18: Takoradi
October 19. Study Day

A12- October 20: Share and peer review class journals on Ghana
More Examples of Good Travel Writing (G 88-112)
In-class writing exercises

B12- October 21

A13- October 22: Preparation for Cape Town; readings TBA
Learning from Experience and From the Experienced
What It Takes to be a Travel Writer (G 166-171) (S 140-155)

October 23. Study Day

B13- October 24

A14- October 25: Talking with the Pros
Interviews with Professional Travel Writers (G 113-141)
Peer reviewing and revision workshop

October 26-30: Cape Town

October 31. Study Day.

B-14 November 1

A15- November 2: Debrief and reflect on Cape Town port stay
More Talking With the Pros
Interviews with Professional Travel Writers (G 142-163)
Preparation for Buenos Aires; readings TBA

B15- November 3

November 4. Study Day.

A16- November 5: Insiders' Tips for Better Travel Writing
...And the words will follow (S 156-174)

**COLLECT THIRD ROUND OF JOURNAL ENTRIES.
FIRST REVISED ENTRY ALSO DUE**

B16- November 6

A17- November 7: Different Ways to Tell The Truth

Share and peer review class journals on Buenos Aires and Montevideo
Dealing with censors, finding your niche (S 175-191) (G 176-177, 182-187)
November 8. Study Day.

B17- November 9

A18- November 10: The Gods Speak: Interviews with Editors and Agents

What We Can Learn from Interviews with Editors and Agents (G 246-281)
Preparation for Buenos Aires; readings TBA

B18- November 11

November 12-16: Buenos Aires

A19- November 17: Professional Guidelines

Share and peer review class journals on Buenos Aires
Tweaking Our Best Work to the Needs of the Profession (G 331-348)

B19- November 18

A20- November 19: Revision, Review, Portfolio Preparation

Peer Review and Work-shopping for final Portfolio preparation
Preparation for Rio de Janeiro; readings TBA

COLLECT FOURTH ROUND OF JOURNAL ENTRIES

SECOND REVISED ENTRY ALSO DUE

November 20-22: Rio de Janeiro

November 23: Study Day.

B20- November 24

A21- November 25: Technology and the Journaling Traveler

Share and peer review class journals on Buenos Aires
Technology and the Journaling Traveler (S 192-208)
Preparation for Manaus; readings TBA

B21- November 26

November 27. Study Day.

A22- November 28: Open

Class content and activities to be determined (possible make-up day)

B22- November 29

A23- November 30: Bringing Your Journal Home

Bringing Your Journal Home (S 209-222)
Preparation for Dominica; readings TBA

December 1. Study Day.

December 2-5: Manaus

December 6. Study Day.

B23- December 7

A24- December 8:

COLLECT FINAL ROUND OF JOURNAL ENTRIES

B24-December 9

December 10. Study Day.

A25-December 11; A Day Finals, In Class Best Essay Presentations

December 12. Study Day.

B25-December 13: B Day Finals, In Class Best Essay Presentations

FIELD WORK

***FIELD LAB* (Attendance and participation in the Field Lab is MANDATORY.)**

Field Lab Proposal Number One

A Literary and Historical Walk Through Dublin

This immersive field lab experience will offer a sense of the historic and contemporary dimensions of Dublin as a writer's city and a city of writers. Now designated as a UNESCO City of Literature, the capital city is the birthplace of three Nobel laureates of literature; Yeats, Shaw and Beckett, and the creator of the world's first modernist novel, James Joyce. The city also continues to be a vibrant literary city, celebrating words written, spoken, sung. Home to festivals and writing workshops, literary museums and walking tours

Irish literature and history are inextricably linked so we will begin the day with a brief introduction to the literary profile of Dublin at the Irish Writer's Centre, and then a tour of the city including a visit to Kilmainham Jail, where many of those who led, fought and were executed in Ireland's Rising/Revolution in 1916 were also writers. We would hope to include a lunchtime play at the celebrated Bewley's Café Theatre as part of the International Fringe Festival which will be in full swing during your visit. A little bookshop browsing, a visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells the steps of Leopold Bloom's odyssey in Ulysses. We will finish the day by participating in the celebrated Dublin Literary Pub Crawl where two actors lead us around the city interspersed with excerpts from songs plays and poetry of Irish writers.

Student Assignment for Field Lab One and Method of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated for this assignment by 1) their engaged participation in all aspects of the day's program and 2) by a written reflection on the day's events. This should be both impressionistic, conjuring the feel and texture of the day, and critical, reflecting on what was said by whom, and how the student feels and where he/she stands in relation to all that was seen, spoken and heard in the course of the day. The reflection should also refer to and incorporate references to preparatory reading for the field lab, to the visits to the city's various sights and monuments, and to whatever other impressions and information that the student gathers in the course of the day's activities. Beyond this, each student can use a camera or sketchpad to record visual evidence to complement the written record. This assignment is worth 20 % of the total course grade

Field Lab Proposal Number Two ; Lübeck: Gem of the Baltic (see attached proposal)

While Hamburg is still very much a bustling world port, Lübeck is today a lovingly preserved cultural precinct, complete with *Altstadt* (Old City) two of the city's original four gates, and much of the old city walls. In Lübeck we will be met by a city guide, who will show us the city with its seven gothic style church towers before proceeding to the Thomas Mann-Haus and then to the Gunter Grass-Haus literary museums. We will take time to read and reflect on some short pieces by Mann and Grass, and to enjoy a slice of Lübeck *marzipan* or *Bremer Klaben* (stollen cake), as part of our day. After the guided part of our day, students will have time to roam the streets and explore on their own before we reconvene to travel back to Hamburg together by train.

Student Assignment for Field Lab Two and Method of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated for this assignment by 1) their engaged participation in all aspects of the day's program and 2) by a written reflection on the day's events. This should be both impressionistic, conjuring the feel and texture of the day, and critical, reflecting on what was said by whom, and how the student himself feels and where he/she stands in relation to all that was seen, spoken and heard in the course of the day. The reflection should also refer to and incorporate references to preparatory reading for the field lab, to the city and museum visits, and to whatever other impressions and information that the student gathers in the course of the day's activities. Beyond this, each student can use a camera or sketchpad to record visual evidence to complement the written record. This assignment is worth 20 % of the total course grade

Students will be evaluated for the field lab, based on attendance at all parts of the day's program, on curious and engaged participation, and on the quality of their response papers. First informal drafts of response papers must be submitted within 48 hours. Revised versions may be submitted at a later date, after receiving instructor feedback.
Field Lab worth 20% of course grade

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to complete the following “image capture and reflection” assignment at two ports of call of their choice during the voyage. The assignment is as follows: using your eyes, ears, nose and your notepad, as well as a digital camera and/or sketchpad, capture at least five distinctly different images of your chosen port location in an attempt to capture the sense of place, perhaps even the heart or soul, of your chosen location, as you experience it on that day or days. You can present and comment on the images, linking them together to develop an informal essay, combining words and images. These two assignments are together worth 20% of your final grade. Each field assignment is due no later than the last day before the next port visit.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Attendance and Engaged Participation*	20%
Field Lab including response essay	20%
Two Port Field Assignments	20%
Regular Ongoing Journaling Entries	20%
Two Revised and Essays draw from journals	20%

* Attendance and Participation. Students must attend each class session and be sure to have completed the assigned reading and any other assigned preparatory tasks for the day’s session. Students should also participate actively in all class discussions, exercises, and group projects.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Paul Theroux
TITLE: *The Tao of Travel*
PUBLISHER: Penguin
ISBN #: 978-0141044262
DATE/EDITION: 2012

AUTHOR: Michael Pearson
TITLE: *Innocents Abroad Too: Journeys Around the World on Semester at Sea*
PUBLISHER: Syracuse UP
ISBN #: 9780815609094
DATE/EDITION: 2008

AUTHOR: Paul Fussell, ed.
TITLE: *The Norton Book of Travel*
PUBLISHER: Norton
ISBN #: 978-0141044262
DATE/EDITION: 1987

AUTHOR: Peter Hulme
TITLE: *The Cambridge Companion to Travel Writing*

PUBLISHER: Cambridge UP
ISBN #: 978-0521786522
DATE/EDITION: 2002

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

To be made available via intranet

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each student will benefit greatly from having a personal laptop with wireless antenna and DVD player, as well as a digital camera with camera to computer download connector for the voyage.

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed

Lonely planet publications. Melbourne. Oakland. London. Lonely planet's Guide to travel writing. 3rd edition August 2013 First published March 2005 ISBN 978 1 74321 688 0. Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd ABN 36 005 607 983. text Lonely Planet 2013 Sri Lanka by Harriet O'Brien Traveller / Cond Nast Publications Ltd Guitar Central by Christopher Reynolds Los Angeles Times Reprinted with permission. photographs photographers as indicated Cover design Mark Adams. All rights reserved. Australia - Head Office Locked Bag 1, Footscray, Victoria 3011 03 8379 8000, fax 03 8379 8111 www.lonelyplanet.com.au/contact. USA 150 Linden St, Oakland, CA 94607 510 893 8556, fax 510 893 8572 info@lonelyplanet.com. Travel Writing (Lonely Planet) [Don George] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Travel Writing (Lonely Planet). A very thorough and informative guide to all things related to travel writing. Split up into sections with information about how to write, exercises to improve your writing, and very useful information about publishing, contacts in the publishing world and examples of good writing. Read more. Lonely Planet travel guides are still the most common used by travelers but they've lost their edge over the past few years. I loved its emphasis on budget travel and backpacking, the offbeat destinations, and its quirky and funny writing. As I planned my trip, LP's shoestring guides were stacked high on my desk and I became a permanent customer of Lonely Planet guides. Their personality matched mine and I was hooked. Dubbed 'the backpacker's blue bible,' Lonely Planet's guidebooks focused on unique destinations and budget travel, which made them a staple of travelers worldwide. For good or ill, Lonely Planet often made destinations, hostels, and restaurants. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places they find themselves in. TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2012 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category. 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times. 'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fair Start by marking 'Lonely Planet's Guide to Travel Writing' as Want to Read: Want to Read saving! Want to Read. Bursting with invaluable advice, this inspiring and practical guide is a must for anyone who has ever yearned to turn their travels into saleable tales. Let legendary travel writer Don George show you the way. Discover: -The secrets of crafting a great travel story (How to conduct pre-trip and on-the-road research) -Effective interviewing techniques (How to get your name in pr Bursting with invaluable advice, this inspiring and practical guide is a must for anyone who has ever yearned to turn their travels into saleable tales.