

Travel Writing 2219F Section: 001 Email: mchambe4@uwo.ca

Time/Room: Monday 12:30 - 3:30 Office: Room 1422 University College
SH 3307

Instructor: Melanie Chambers Office hours: Mondays 10 am - 12

Course description: from memoir, to insider advice to cultural observations, travel stories are a snapshot of a place through the eyes of a traveller. Students will communicate their travels --whether writing about their hometowns or exotic locales-- into engaging stories suitable for a variety of publications and online markets. Students will also create a mini guidebook and master the art of the review; as well, we'll discuss the evolution of the genre and ethical issues including differentiating advertising from editorial travel articles.

Texts: *The Best American Travel Writing: 2018*. Editor Cheryl Strayed

Recommended Texts: *On Writing Well*, by William Zinsser

There are four major assignments for this course.

Grades and Assignments:	Due Dates: (workshop/final)
1. Travel ideas presentation 20%	Presented in class, sign up sheet
2. Mini guidebook 25%	Oct 15/Oct 22
4. Travel Blog 25%	Oct 29/Nov 5
5. Feature 30%	Nov 26/Dec 3

Peer editing: You will notice that every assignment, except the pre-trip assignment, requires a first draft, which will be used for in-class editing purposes. The first due date is when the peer edit draft is due. Every peer edit workshop requires **THREE** copies of your work. The purpose of this is to mimic the editor and writer relationship that exists in a 'real world' scenario. Editing and rewriting are critical to improving and sculpting a

story for publication. As an editor, you will learn to critique and help shape fellow students' work and as a writer, you must get used to adopting and/or rejecting editing comments and concerns. This work will be done in-class; therefore, if you're absent, this will reflect on your participation mark.

Note: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course **will** count as non-attendance, and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your Dean's office. If you elect to miss a class in order to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholoff.pdf

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101, 2121, 2111, or 2131, or b) a final grade of 70 or more in Writing 1000F/G or Writing 1030F, or c) Special Permission of the department.

Attendance Policies

Medical Accommodation Policy

Western has a comprehensive policy covering requests for accommodation by students who are not registered with Student Accessibility Services. All students should review this policy here, under the heading 'Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students', noting the procedures, restrictions, and notice requirements:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

In Writing courses, students covered by this policy who are seeking academic consideration must proceed as follows.

Writing Studies' Basic Policy: students seeking academic consideration **on medical or any other grounds** for any missed tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments must either initiate a Self-Reported Absence (**for a grade component worth up to 30% of their final grade, but excluding final exams scheduled during the exam period**) or apply in person to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of their home Faculty and provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or other supporting documentation as required in accordance with official Western policy (linked above).

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either:

- i. A Self-Reported Absence, or
- ii. Academic consideration supported by the Academic Counselling Office.

Exception: in Writing Studies courses, a student seeking academic accommodation **on non-medical grounds** for any missed in-class tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments **worth less than 10% of a final grade** *may*

first consult directly with her or his instructor, who will – in his or her discretion – elect either to make a decision on the request directly or instruct the student to follow the procedures set out in **Writing Studies’ Basic Policy**.

Please note that individual instructors will **not under any circumstances** accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an ‘Attendance’ policy in the course). **All medical documentation must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of a student’s home Faculty.

Students who are or who feel they should be covered under Student Accessibility Services should review Western policy here:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.

Weekly lecture and readings

Week One	Syllabus/books/Introductions
Sept 9	LECTURE: the difference between a traveller and a tourist (qualities of a good travel writer).
	Cultural assumption in-class exercise
Week Two	LECTURE: Creating a sense of place in travel writing. WATCH LONELY PLANET
Sept 16	
	READ: 1. William Zinsser – online
Week Three	LECTURE: Guidebooks
Sept 23	
	READ: 1. <i>text page 259, Thinking outside the Bots</i> 2. https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/get-paid-to-travel-become-a-guidebook-author/
Week Four	Class Trip—guidebook related assignment
Sept 30	
Week Five	LECTURE: guest speaker – blogs Pre-trip planning (research methods); What makes a good travel idea; travel trends (story styles, ledes, and trends)
Oct 7	
	READ: 1. http://www.bbc.com/travel/columns/culture-identity 2. <i>text page 37, Why should a melon cost as much as a car?</i> 1. www.bbc.com/travel/story/20190818-whats-it-like-to-live-in-an-over-touristed-city

Week Six	Thanksgiving Break – no classes
Oct 14	
Week Seven	LECTURE: Websites, service pieces, gallery stories, blogs
Oct 21	*guidebooks due
	READ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. www.outsideonline.com/1965451/5-made-movies-destinations 2. https://roadsandkingdoms.tumblr.com 3. https://maketimetoseetheworld.com/ultimate-travel-packing-list/
Week Eight	LECTURE: First person narrative
Oct 28	
	READ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/travel/driving-toward-fearlessness/article571163/ 2. https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/travel/destinations/my-immersion-in-moroccan-culture-involves-black-soap-and-a-hammam/article13482180/ 3. https://www.mountainlifemedia.ca/2018/04/hiking-and-loss-how-trails-can-lead-us-out-of-grief/
Week Nine	LECTURE: Features
Nov 4	READ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. www.worldhum.com/features/travel-stories/cuba-undistilled-20141220/ 2. Canadian Cycling, <i>Feminism in Cuba</i> (online) 3. text page 43, <i>The Ghosts of Capablanca</i>
Week Ten	LECTURE: Markets and how to pitch your stories to editors
Nov 11	READ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pierogie story and pitch – Globe and Mail www.theglobeandmail.com/life/pursuing-polish-comfort-food-one-pierogi-at-a-time/article710674/ 2. Kuelap and pitch – Globe and Mail www.theglobeandmail.com/life/travel/destinations/forgotten-

	through-time-ancient-kuelap-in-peru-an-ethereal-escape/article30248270/
Week Eleven	LECTURE: copyright, legal and ethical issues related to travel writing
Nov 18	*bring in feature pitches
	READ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>text page 205, Outside the Manson Pinkberry</i> 2. www.matadornetwork.com/notebook/travel-writing-basics-proper-attribution-and-ethics/ 3. https://matadornetwork.com/notebook/how-to-become-a-travel-writer/
Week Twelve	
Nov 26	Workshop features

Dec 2 Final wrap up – features due