

**Travel Writing 2219F Section: 001**

**Email: [mchambe4@uwo.ca](mailto:mchambe4@uwo.ca)**

**Time/Room: Monday 12:30 – 3:30**

**Office: Lawson Hall 3270**

**P+AB 36**

**Instructor: Melanie Chambers**

**Office hours: Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**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 Travel Writing; Volumn 10. Edited by James O'Reilly, Larry Habegger and Sean O'Reilly*

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

**There are five major assignments for this course.**

<b>Grades and Assignments:</b>	<b>Due Dates: (workshop/final)</b>
1. Travel Story presentation 10%	Presented in class, sign up sheet
2. Hometown description 15%	September /October
3. Mini guidebook 20%	Oct 15/Oct 22
4. Travel Blog 20%	Nov 5/Nov 12
5. Feature 25%	Nov 24/Dec 3
Participation and in-class editing 5%	
Summaries (based on readings) 5%	Weekly

**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](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

The University Senate requires the following statement to appear on course outlines:

“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

Attendance at class is required to improve as a writer. Here is the Writing Studies attendance policy in this class:

- You may miss up to three hours (the equivalent of one week of class) of class meetings during the term without explanation. That means that the first three class hours you miss will be recorded as absences but *excused provided you don't miss any more*.
- However, if you miss a total of four to nine class hours (the equivalent of up to three full weeks of class), your final grade will be reduced by 10% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).
- If you miss a total of more than nine hours of class meetings (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class meetings) your final grade will be reduced by 15% (e.g. an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 68).

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g. if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

**Attendance also extends to tardiness.** If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be penalized an hour of attendance. Please make every effort to be on time as late entry can disrupt the flow of discussion in our class. Early departures from class, which have not been previously arranged with the instructor, will also be counted as an absence. If you leave during the break, you will be docked an hour of attendance.

**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.

### **Medical Accommodation Policy**

For UWO Policy on Accommodation For Medical Illness, see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

(downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading)

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical or other grounds** for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments **worth 10% or more of their final grade** must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds cannot be granted by the instructor or the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication, and the Program requires students in these circumstances to follow the same procedure when seeking academic accommodation on non-medical (i.e. non-medical compassionate or other) grounds.

Students seeking academic accommodation **on medical grounds** for any missed tests, exams,

participation components and/or assignments **worth less than 10% of their final grade** must also apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Where in these circumstances the accommodation is being sought on **non-medical grounds**, students should consult in the first instance with their instructor, who may elect to make a decision on the request directly, or refer the student to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive medical documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds, or for other 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 office of a student's home Faculty.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> 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 11	<b>LECTURE:</b> the difference between a traveller and a tourist (qualities of a good travel writer).
	<b>READ:</b> 1. handout <i>online</i> Zinsser, Travel Writing 2. page 86, <i>The Foreign Spell</i> . 3. page 108, <i>What's Left Behind</i>
Week Two	<b>LECTURE:</b> Creating a sense of place in travel writing. WATCH LONELY PLANET
Sept 18	<b>ASSIGNMENT:</b> Hometown description
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Peru – Kuelap Globe and Mail <i>online</i> 2. <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2017/aug/10/anti-tourism-marches-spread-across-europe-venice-barcelona">www.theguardian.com/travel/2017/aug/10/anti-tourism-marches-spread-across-europe-venice-barcelona</a>
Week Three	<b>LECTURE:</b> Pre-trip planning (research methods); What makes a good travel idea; travel trends (story styles, ledes, and trends: eco/sustainable travel, volunteer trips, specializing).
Sept 25	<b>WORKSHOP:</b> Hometown Descriptions
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Blogs <i>online</i> 2. Outside Magazine ‘Apocalyptic landscapes’ and ‘Kids in Italy’ <i>online</i>
Week Four	<b>LECTURE:</b> Blogs: travel and technology; websites, service pieces, gallery stories and blogs
Oct 2	<b>DUE:</b> hometown descriptions; <i>presentations start</i>
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Bryson – <i>online</i> 2. Page 267, In Another Country
	<b>OCTOBER 9 READING WEEK</b>
Week Five	<b>LECTURE:</b> First person (exposing cultural assumptions, personal ignorance) and features (exploring a place – snapshot of time)
Oct 16	
	<b>READ:</b> 1. page 207, Swiss Dream 2. page 158, The Reddest Carpet

	3. 3. <b>online:</b> <a href="https://www.afar.com/travel-guides">https://www.afar.com/travel-guides</a>
Week Six Oct 23	<b>LECTURE:</b> Guidebooks
	<b>WORKSHOP BLOGS</b>
Week Seven Oct 30	<b>LECTURE:</b> Field Trip
	<b>DUE:</b> BLOGS- post online in dropbox
	<b>READ: guest speaker's stories online</b>
Week Eight Nov 6	<b>LECTURE:</b> Guest Lecturer
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Page 123, About Face 2. Page 221, Peak Havana
Week Nine Nov 13	<b>LECTURE:</b> Features
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Pierogies—query and final story <b>online</b> 2. Page 95, The Marlboro Men of Chernivtsi
	<b>Workshop guidebooks</b>
Week Ten Nov 20	<b>LECTURE:</b> Markets and how to pitch your stories to editors
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Ethical handouts <b>online</b> . Email me your ethical questions. 2. page 247, Invisible and Insidious
	<b>DUE: guidebooks</b>
Week Eleven Nov 27	<b>LECTURE:</b> copyright, legal and ethical issues related to travel writing
	<b>READ:</b> 1. Page 190, Darwin's Forgotten World
Week Twelve Dec 4	<b>LECTURE:</b> History travel writers
	<b>FEATURES workshop / DUE Dec 8 ONLINE</b>