

ENGL S114

Summer Session B: July 1 - August 2, 2024

MWF 1:00-3:15

Distributional requirements: Writing

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Travel Writing / Writing Travel

Course Description

What does it mean to travel well? Is there such a thing as a good traveller and a bad traveller? Can authentic travel even exist in an age of mass tourism? In this course, we examine the possibility for self-transformation that accompanies thoughtful journeys to distant lands and the exciting challenge of making genuine connections with people from backgrounds different than our own. Marcel Proust said that “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.” In this class, we accompany Sigmund Freud and James Baldwin (“real voyagers” if ever there were) on life-changing expeditions. We read accounts by some of the world's most famous travellers, including Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Matsuo Bashō, Che Guevara, and Bruce Chatwin, as well as scholarly interpretations of their journeys. We consider the role open-mindedness plays in theories of cosmopolitan engagement. If, as Noam Chomsky asserts, we are faced with a choice between “internationalism or extinction,” what ethical and political assumptions does a vibrant and healthful internationalism rest on? Our readings will include excerpts from travel journals, memoirs, ethnographies, historical accounts, philosophical musings, and academic monographs.

Objective

In this course, you will learn how to make compelling academic arguments through judicious and rigorous engagement with primary and secondary sources. You will learn how to identify a *problem*, make a defensible *claim*, support your assertions with *evidence* and *warrants*, and inform readers of your *motive* for writing. We will work through various drafts of essays to help sharpen your writing skills and ability to develop a nuanced academic argument.

Materials

Graff and Bickerstein, *They Say, I Say* 4th Edition

ISBN: 978-0393631678

Chatwin, *In Patagonia*

ISBN: 978-0142437193

Note: All other materials will be uploaded to Canvas.

Requirements

Attendance: It is essential that you attend every class and that you arrive on time. Grounds for excused absences are documented cases of illness or family emergency or observance of religious holidays. For religious holidays, please inform me in advance, in person or by email. More than *two* unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade; *four* unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

Participation: Regular participation is essential. It isn't enough to simply not be distracted in class. You need to be actively engaged in our intellectual discussions, offering new ideas and responding to ideas your peers raise. You will be expected to engage thoughtfully with the course texts as you're reading for class. A semester of adequate participation will be calculated into your final grade as a B+. You can raise this grade by bringing frequent insights to class discussion and by making contributions that respond to or develop ideas proposed by your classmates.

Assignments: You will submit three essays for this course. The essays increase in complexity as the semester moves along. The first essay focuses on strategies of close analysis, the foundational skill of all academic writing. Essay two asks you to analyze a literary text through the lens of a secondary critical source. You can build on, complicate, or contradict one of the claims made in the secondary source, or you can underscore an aspect of the literary text that a critic has overlooked. The research essay, or third essay, requires you to place an original reading of a text in conversation with arguments other scholars have made about the same work. The writing skills in this course are cumulative. The techniques required to produce successful essays at the end of the term do not replace skills used on previous assignments; they are added to them. The final assignment will be a creative or narrative presentation, in which you discuss/narrate/think through a journey that has left a particularly strong mark on you. You are welcome to reflect on a recent trip (if you happen to have gone anywhere since the Covid outbreak) or on what it's been like being stuck at home and not being able to travel.

Online Discussion Posts: You will be expected to post on the Canvas discussion thread by noon each day of class. Canvas posts offer you an opportunity to reflect on, think through, and learn about others' thoughts on readings. In a post, you can raise a question, underscore a theme, draw attention to gaps in an author's logic. There's really no limit. Posts should focus on a single point or aspect of the text, however. *Posts should be posted no later than noon on class days, as I'll need time to read them before.*

Essay Guidelines: To ensure fairness and clarity, the formatting expectations for your essay assignments are outlined below. All essays must be word processed with:

- 1-inch margins
- Double-spaced text in Times New Roman font
- A title in the same style text as the rest of the essay (not bold or italic)
- Your last name and page number in the upper-right corner of every page after the first
- All citations in MLA format (see OWL's MLA Formatting & Style Guide)
- Proper MLA formatting (see OWL's MLA Formatting & Style Guide)

You should submit drafts that represent your best possible work at that time.

Late Paper Policy: Late drafts (midway or final) will result in a lower overall grade. I will deduct one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late. Late midway drafts will also complicate peer

reviews, diminishing the quality of feedback you receive from your classmates. If it is absolutely necessary to turn a paper in late, please see me as soon as possible to request an extension. Extensions may be granted for medical or family emergencies.

Academic Integrity: In this course, you will be expected to engage critically with the intellectual work of others, but you must give credit to them for their work. Any instance of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty, such as unauthorized collaboration, may result in a failure of the assignment or the course. Plagiarism is a violation of academic ethics, and it is a violation of our relationship. For Yale's policies on this matter, go to <http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/policies/definitions-plagiarism-cheating/>. You may consult the Writing Center for help on using sources at <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>.

Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and wish to have an accommodation made for you in this class, please email me. Accommodations can be requested through Student Accessibility Services (<https://sas.yale.edu>). Students can get advice on adjusting their approaches to the demands of college-level work by meeting with Sarah Cussler (sarah.cussler@yale.edu), the Poorvu Center's learning specialist. Students can also engage with the helpful resources offered by the Academic Strategies Program: <https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/academic-strategies-program>.



Grades


Paper 1	3 pages	Close Reading	15 %
Paper 2	4-5 pages	Lens Essay	20 %
Paper 3	7-8 pages	Research Essay	30 %
Presentation			15 %
Discussion Posts			10 %
Participation			10 %

Due Dates

Paper 1, First Draft	7/4
Paper 1, Final Draft	7/9
Paper 2, First Draft	7/12
Paper 2, Final Draft	7/14
Paper 3, Research Proposal and Working Bibliography	7/18
Paper 3, Partial Draft	7/21
Paper 3, First Draft	7/26
Paper 3, Final Draft	7/29
Presentations	8/02

Course Schedule (subject to change)

<p>Unit 1 <i>Learning to close read</i></p>	<p><u>Authentic Travel</u></p>  <p align="center"><i>“Let the tourist be cushioned against misadventure; your true traveler will not feel that he has had his money’s worth unless he brings back a few scars.”</i> <i>Lawrence Durrell</i></p>
<p>Week 1</p>	
<p>M 7/01</p>	<p>Course Introduction Key Terms Handout Essay 1 assigned and explained</p>
<p>W 7/03</p>	<p>Benjamin, “Naples” Making Arguments and Writing Titles Power Point Group Activity</p>
<p>Th 7/04</p>	<p>***First Draft of Essay 1 due, 5 p.m.</p>
<p>Unit 2 <i>Learning to write a critical lens essay</i></p>	<p><u>Searching for Oneself in Distant Lands</u></p>  <p align="center"><i>“Travelling is a fool’s paradise. Our first journeys discover to us the indifference of places. At home I dream that at Naples, at Rome, I can be intoxicated with beauty, and lose my sadness. I pack my trunk, embrace my friends, embark on the sea, and at last wake in Naples, and there beside me is the stern fact, the sad self, unrelenting, identical, that I fled from.”</i> <i>Emerson</i></p>
<p>F 7/05</p>	<p>Freud, “Disturbance of Memory on the Acropolis,” 239-48 Peer Review #1 Essay 2 assigned and explained Explain Lens Essay</p>

M 7/08	Baldwin, "Encounter on the Seine: Black Meets Brown" & "A Question of Identity," from <i>Notes of a Native Son</i> , 119-139. Thompson, "Revealing the Self," from <i>Travel Writing</i> , 96-118.
T 7/09	***Final Draft of Essay 1 due, 5 p.m.
W 7/10	Fussell, "Exploration to Travel to Tourism," in <i>Abroad: British Literary Traveling Between the Wars</i> , 39-50.
F 7/12	***First Draft of Essay 2 due at the start of class Graff and Birkenstein, "Introduction" & "Part 1: They Say," 1-52. Workshop #2
Sun 7/14	***Final Draft of Essay 2 due, 5 p.m.
Unit 3 <i>Learning to write a research paper</i>	Encountering Others  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>"I am human; nothing human can be alien to me."</i> Terence</p>
M 7/15	Montagu, "To Turkey and Back," from <i>The Turkish Embassy Letters</i> , 132-73 (with special attention to letters 107, 109, & 110). Essay 3 assigned and explained In-Class Art Gallery Visit
W 7/17	Basho, <i>Narrow Road into the Interior</i> In-Class Library Visit
Th 7/18	***Research Proposal and Working Bibliography Due
F 7/19	Guevara, <i>The Motorcycle Diaries</i> Graff and Birkenstein, "Part 2: I Say," 53-100.
Sun 7/21	***Essay 3 Partial draft due (with intro, claim, and at least 3 body paragraphs)
M 7/22	Guevara, <i>The Motorcycle Diaries</i> Graff and Birkenstein, "Part 3: Tying It All Together," 101-61.
W 7/24	Appiah, <i>Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers</i> , 87-113 Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism," 1-8
F 7/26	***Essay 3 Complete Draft due at the beginning of class Peer-Review #3 <i>The Last Tourist</i>
Unit 4	Travel Writing/Writing Travel



“Traveling – It leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller”
Ibn Battuta

M 7/29	***Essay 3 final draft due at the beginning of class Chatwin, <i>In Patagonia</i>
W 7/31	Chatwin, <i>In Patagonia</i>
F 8/02	Final Presentations