

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
English Writing, Literature, and Publishing Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	Travel Writing
Course Number:	ENG 322
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	ENG 202 or equivalent

Course description

This workshop instructs students in the mechanics of travel writing from research, interviewing techniques and pitching editors to crafting essays and articles for newspapers, magazines, books, and the internet.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- George, Don. Lonely Planet's Guide to Travel Writing. China: Lonely Planet Publications, 3rd Edition – August 2013. (Available in Kindle edition from amazon.com)

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. respond critically, both orally and in writing, to a variety of travel pieces
2. outline, draft, revise and polish feature (magazine) length travel essays, newspaper length travel articles, internet-based travel pieces, editorial query letters and pitches
3. research and utilize interviewing and writing techniques commonly implemented in the travel writing genre, especially those required when pitching editorial ideas for publication
4. assimilate and incorporate a variety of approaches to travel writing having been introduced to the genre through reading, examination, and discussions that have placed the form in both an historical and contemporary context
5. participate in a workshop style writing environment offering assistance and suggestions for helping others to improve their writing skills

Course Learning Activities

- In class discussions and oral presentations
- Peer group workshop
- The Destination Article
- Personal Travel Essay
- Query Letter/Story Pitch
- Homework and In-Class Assignments

Assessment tools

Participation in class discussions and workshop critiques	10%
Destination Article (first draft and final revision)	20%
Personal Travel Essay (first draft and final revision)	20%
Query Letter/Story Pitch (first draft and final revision)	15%
Short critical response to one essay and one blog; oral presentations to class	10%
Other written assignments including Travel Notebook, in-class and field assignments	15%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction into the course and presentation of the course materials. Types of travel writing; Journaling; Angle/Audience/Place	We will read André Aciman's "Memoirists and Truth" in class In-class Assignment 1a and 1b: Idea Generation
Week 2	CRAFT Consumer Travel Articles – Structure and Types Weather permitting, we will walk to a nearby park to do some onsite writing	Read consumer travel pieces from Reader and online. Read LP pp. 11-38 Assn 2a: Go online and identify one travel site that you like. Be prepared to discuss focus, audience, and one article. You can use one from the list provided. Assn 2b: At least eight Consumer Pieces Ideas
Week 3	CRAFT Consumer Travel Articles – Audience and Angle	Read consumer travel pieces from Reader and online. Assn 3a: Bring in one roundup, advice, and destination travel piece (3 in total). Write a 1-2 page critical review of ONE of the pieces including focus, use of images, description, tone, length...identify lead, nut graf, kicker...what did you like, what didn't you like.
Week 4	ONSITE: Keats Shelley House Italy and the Grand Tour CRAFT Travel Memoir – Theme and Structure	Assn 3b: Research Piazza di Spagna and Keats Shelly House. Write out how you are going to get there in detail. http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05vx4dz?fb_ref=Default Read James, Dickens, Goethe, D.H. Lawrence from Reader. Read LP 40-48 Onsite Assn 3a: Description and Voice Onsite Assn 3b: The Roundup Article Read William Zinsser "Writing about Places; The Travel Article" (Reader) Assn 4: Lead, Nut Graf, Body, Kicker for your Consumer Travel Article
Week 5	CRAFT More on Description and Voice ONSITE: Piazza Navona	We will meet in Piazza Navona beside Bernini's "Fountain of the Four Rivers" to do some on-site writing exercises. Be prepared to discuss progress of your own writing. Read Phillip Lopate, "Research and
	Research and Travel Writing WORKSHOP – Consumer Travel Pieces	Personal Writing"; André Aciman, "Roman Hours"; Alice Steinbach, from "Without Reservation" Onsite Assn 5a: Research and Travel Writing (hand out research, incorporate in guidebook entry) Onsite Assn 5b: Eating a piece of fruit by a fountain...see Aciman piece! Anne Hull, "Revising Over and Over Again" (from Reader)

	ONSITE: Trastevere	Assn 6: Bring your Consumer Travel Writing piece to class. BRING ENOUGH COPIES FOR EVERYONE Be prepared to offer oral and written critique of your classmates' essays (see "Guidelines for Criticism.")
	CRAFT Travel Memoir – Analysis and Discussion	Read Muriel Spark "My Rome"; Elizabeth Bowen "A Time in Rome" Onsite Assn 7: Writing the situation Assn 8: Walk to a area or place in Rome where you've never been (e.g, around Campo dei Fiori or a nearby neighbourhood, a church, a cemetery,...). List at least 8 ideas for writing your travel essay. Write Lead for at least 3.
	CRAFT: POV, Dialogue, Metaphor ONSITE	Assn 9: Write a 1-2 page response to one of the travel essays assigned so far. You should analyze one or two aspects of it from the perspective of a travel writer. See the handout, "How to Critique an Essay" for ideas. Be prepared to discuss in class. We will walk to a nearby park for a short writing assignment.
	CRAFT: Blogging, Photo journaling	Assn 10: Bring in topic for your travel essay. Be prepared to discuss Assn 11: Write a 1-2 page critical review of a blog or photojournaling site. Analyze blog focus, use of images, description, tone, length...what did you like, what didn't you like. Be prepared to discuss in class Onsite Assn 12a and 12b: Description and Writing Concisely
	ONSITE	Assn 13: DRAFT of Personal Travel Essay due in class. BRING ENOUGH COPIES FOR EVERYONE
	WORKSHOP	Be prepared to offer oral and written critique of your classmates' essays (see "Guidelines for Criticism.") In class Assn 14: Write a pitch Assn 15: Query Letter due. Be prepared to present and discuss in class.
	The Business and Query Letter	Assn 16: FINAL CONSUMER TRAVEL PIECE DUE. BE PREPARED TO READ IN CLASS Assn. 17: FINAL PERSONAL ESSAY DUE. BE PREPARED TO READ IN CLASS. Assn 18: Exit Essay on Travel Writing
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		