

# ENGL 80: INTRODUCTION TO TRAVEL WRITING

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
<b>Units:</b>	4
<b>Hours:</b>	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
<b>Advisory:</b>	Demonstrated proficiency in English by placement via multiple measures OR through an equivalent placement process OR completion of ESLL 125 & ESLL 249.
<b>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</b>	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
<b>Foothill GE:</b>	Non-GE
<b>Transferable:</b>	CSU
<b>Grade Type:</b>	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
<b>Repeatability:</b>	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- The student will be able to: Recognize, evaluate, and produce characteristics of travel writing.
- The student will be able to: employ skills in reflection and cultural analysis to draw meaning from observation and research

## Description

An introductory course in travel writing. Focus on recognizing, evaluating, and producing the characteristics of travel writing in a range of travel writing genres. Practice in skills of observation, research, and reflection to understand aspects of place and draw meaning from travel experiences. Recognition and evaluation of publishing options.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Recognize, evaluate, and produce common types of travel writing
- Recognize, evaluate, and produce characteristics of travel writing
- Employ skills in observation and research to identify and understand aspects of place
- Employ skills in reflection and cultural analysis to draw meaning from observation and research
- Provide constructive critique of peer writing in a workshop format
- Recognize and evaluate publishing markets for travel writing

## Course Content

- Recognize, evaluate, and produce common types of travel writing
  - Consumer travel writing
    - Travel articles
    - Destination pieces
    - Round-ups
    - Advice
    - Guidebooks
  - Journalistic travel writing
    - Features
    - “Armchair” travel writing

- Essay
- Memoir
- New Media
  - Travel websites/blogs
  - Photography
- Recognize, evaluate, and produce characteristics of travel writing
  - Sense of place
  - Sensory qualities
  - Diction
    - Figurative language
      - Similes and metaphors
    - Alliteration and onomatopoeia
    - Personification
    - Dynamic verbs and strong nouns
  - Voice
  - Structure
    - Lede, nut graf, body, kicker
    - Sidebars
    - Free-form
  - Point of view
    - First person
    - Invisible narrator
  - Angle
    - Unique focus
    - Thematic, such as:
      - Food
      - Nature/environment
  - Sense of audience
- Employ skills in observation and research to identify and understand aspects of place
  - Observing and taking notes
  - Primary research
    - Formal interviews
    - Informal interviews
  - Secondary research
    - Travel publications
    - Fact-checking
    - Relevant people
    - Relevant history
    - Cultural information
    - Events and attractions
- Employ techniques in reflection and cultural analysis to draw meaning from observation and research
  - Critically analyze and interpret travel experiences
  - Identify comparative differences between the familiar and unfamiliar
  - Identify larger meaning and themes for readers
  - Identifying, analyze, and describe representative cultural artifacts
    - Historical significance
    - Cultural perspectives
- Provide constructive critique of peer writing in a workshop format
- Recognize and evaluate publishing markets for travel writing
  - Identify target publications
  - Evaluate for audience, style, aesthetic, angles, and tone
  - Pitch letters
  - Self-publishing: blogs and websites

## Lab Content

Not applicable.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- A. When taught on campus, computers with capacity to run appropriate software.
- B. When taught via Foothill Global Access, on-going access to computer with Email and basic software capabilities (word processing, presentation, spreadsheet); Email address.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- A. Reading Journals: critical analysis of a variety of travel writing
- B. Observation and Research Journals
- C. Written assignments and workshop critique
- D. Capstone Portfolio

## Method(s) of Instruction

- A. Lecture in the common types and characteristics of travel writing
- B. Instructor-facilitated activities in observation, research, reflection, and analysis

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Allende, Isabel. "Isabel Allende on the Amazon." [Salon Media Group](#) (25 Mar. 1997). Web: 27 Oct. 2013. salon.com

Bryson, Bill. [I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After Twenty Years Away](#). New York: Broadway Books, 2000.

Curtis, Wayne. "No Room at the Inn." [The Atlantic](#) (Nov. 2001). Web: 02 Nov. 2013. theatlantic.com

Higgins, Michelle. "One is No Longer the Loneliest Number." [The New York Times](#) (02 Dec. 2007). Web: 11 Nov. 2013. nytimes.com

Iyer, Pico. "The Shock of Arrival." [Pico Iyer](#) (01 Jan. 2009). Web: 29 Oct. 2013. picoiyerjourneys.com

[Jungles in Paris](#). Web: 03 Dec. 2013. www.junglesinparis.com

Pham, Andrew. [Catfish and Mandala](#). New York: MacMillan Picador, 2000.

Torpey, Paul. "Top Ten Haunted Places in the U.K." [The Guardian](#) (31 Oct. 2007). Web: 09 Nov. 2013. theguardian.com

## Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- A. Reading and informal journal evaluations of a variety of travel writing
- B. Observing places and taking notes
- C. Conducting primary and secondary research on locations
- D. Reflecting on larger meaning and significance of locations and their artifacts
- E. Drafting written travel pieces

## Discipline(s)

English