

The Travel Writing of France and Italy

ENGL 2090: Special Studies in Language and Literature
The Glories of France, Montpellier, 2019

Instructor: Dr. Anne Boyd Rioux
Email: aeboyd@uno.edu
Class website: engl2090.wordpress.com
Meeting Times: Block 2, 10-12

Course materials:

Readings provided as PDFs on the class website. You will need a tablet or laptop computer in order to read them. You will need a computer as well for the writing you will do.

Course Description:

In this class students will both read and write travel literature, a form of creative nonfiction, allowing students to better understand their experiences abroad through their engagements with the written word. At its core, travel writing places an individual in a foreign setting, illuminates the experience of being an outsider, and attempts to bridge the gap between visitor and locals. Often these attempts generate as much understanding of the self as of the other, hence the genre's close association with memoir. We will focus on France but also dip into writing about Italy. We will sample different modes of travel and the writings they inspire, including literary tourism, art history tourism, culinary tourism. Students will also keep a travel journal inspired by their travels and their reading, which they will post on our class website blog, which is a public forum that family and friends can follow.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to analyze travel writing as a subgenre of creative nonfiction and as a distinct art form.
- Students will be able to recognize the strategies writers use to bring their travels to life.
- Students will be able to identify the recurring themes of outsiders' encounters with Europe, particularly France and Italy.
- Students will learn how to keep a travel journal and by the end of the course be able to develop a narrative of their own travel experiences, using the techniques of the travel literature we are reading.
- Students will be able to effectively present a brief narrative of one of their travels for the final exam.

Assignments:

(20%) Class Participation

You are expected to come to class well prepared, with all reading and assignments complete, and to participate in whole-class discussions and in small group workshops. As you do the reading

assignment, keep your notebook handy and jot down at least two things that caught your attention or that you have questions about. Your participation grade will depend on how attentive you are and how often you make helpful, insightful comments in class: regularly (=A); sometimes (=B); rarely (=C); almost never (=D); never (=F).

(40%=10% x 4) Travel Journal and Blogs

All students will keep a notebook or travel journal. Instructions for selecting a suitable notebook and trips for what to write about will be posted on the class website in early June. Travel Blogs (see course schedule for due dates and specific topics) should be accompanied by at least one picture and posted on the class website. These should be based on your travel journal and will be workshopped in class. We will be discussing the many forms these can take.

(20%) Travel Essay

For this essay, you will choose one of the pieces we have read to use as inspiration or as a model and write your own travel essay (~5 pages) based on one of your experiences this summer. This could be an expansion of one of your travel journals. We will discuss your options as we progress through the readings. We will take class time to review each other's drafts and provide feedback. These essays will be presented in class on the day of our final.

It is UNO policy that no writing can be submitted for credit (in whole or part) in more than one course.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all classes. Each unexcused absence will reduce the student's final grade by five (5) points. In addition, your participation grade will suffer if you do not come to class. All absences are unexcused, unless a medical report is provided. A five-minute grace period is allowed before a student is marked "late." (Leaving the class early is considered "late," as well.) Three tardies equal one absence.

Late Work:

Travel blogs are due at the beginning of the class period designated on the syllabus. The travel essay is due on the day of finals. **No late work will be accepted without making arrangements with me BEFORE the assignment is due.** Only one late assignment will be allowed, per student. The travel essay cannot be turned in late, as final grades are due the next day.

****All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Criteria for grading and grading standards:

Letter grades correspond to the following numerical scale: A+=100, A=95, A-=92, A-/B+=90, B+=88, B=85, B-=82, B-/C+=80, C+=78, C=75, C-=72, C-/D+=70, D+=68, D=65, D-=62, F=50.

A grade of "C" indicates competent completion of the assignment. Grades of "A" and "B" indicate varying levels of distinguished performance beyond competency, while grades of "D" and "F" indicate varying levels of failure to address the assignment competently.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs/documents/Student-Code-of-Conduct-rev-2018.pdf>

A word about cell phones

When you are in class, you should not take cell phone calls. They should be turned off when you enter the classroom. If you are in an emergency situation and need to be accessible by cell phone, set it to vibrate, and inform me privately at the beginning of class. Also – no txt msg n cls!!

Disabilities: I will do my best to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Please feel free to contact me about your needs. **If you have a disability, please contact the Program Coordinator, Robyn White (RLWhite3@uno.edu) as soon as possible so that we can best accommodate you.**