

**Spring 2017**

**Travel Writing (non-credit), Intensive English Institute**

**Instructor:** Chris Mares (Director of the Intensive English Institute and published travel writer)

This one semester course is designed to give non-native speakers of English an experience in Maine that they will never forget plus the opportunity to develop their travel writing skills to a publishable level. The course is built around six field trips to popular attractions in Maine from the outlet stores of Freeport, to the historic light houses of the Maine coast.

Participants will do initial research before each trip, followed by note-taking, journaling, and picture taking, and ultimately the writing of an article based on the experience.

Participants will learn the skills necessary to write compelling and marketable articles. These include observation, description, and the development of voice. Participants will also develop an awareness of audience and a knowledge of common submission requirements.

**Syllabus**

Note: The times and locations of the class meetings are TBA.

Introductory Meeting (1/20): Course overview and expectations. Explanation of the process of travel writing from initial research to final writing product.

Trip one (1/21): Freeport/Portland

Class Meeting (2/3): Research and note-taking before a trip.

Trip two (2/4): Camden Winterfest

Class Meeting (2/17): Journaling review. How to record the trip. What to include.

Trip three (2/18): Mt. Jefferson Ski Trip

Class Meeting (2/24): Developing a voice. Finding a style that works for your purpose.

Trip four (2/25): Downtown Bangor and the Art Museum

Class Meeting (3/30): Writing an article or blog. Planning and producing a final product.

Trip five (4/1): Nutkin Knoll Farm for Maple Syrup

Class Meeting (4/28): Understanding the market. How to pitch your piece and where.

Trip six (4/29): Acadia

Wrap Up Meeting: A review of the course and roundtable discussion.

**Assignments:**

- Submit research notes and journal entry for each trip
- Submit two publishable travel articles or blogs

**Grading**

The course is Pass/Fail

**Requirements**

Participants must attend all meetings, go on all trips, and complete all assignments.