

## Course Syllabus

### Travel Writing

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#### COURSE INFORMATION

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IEI    Non-Credit    Exchange Students only    15 contact hours + 10 trips

**Instructor:** Chris Mares E-mail: [cmares@maine.edu](mailto:cmares@maine.edu)

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#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS

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George, Don. *Lonely Planet's Guide to Travel Writing*, Lonely Planet Publications  
(ISBN 978-1-4321-688-0)

Other readings to be provided by the instructor

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#### DESCRIPTION

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The Travel Writing course designed for visiting Exchange Students for whom English is not a first language. It provides an opportunity for students to visit various Maine locations over the course of a semester while also learning the art of travel writing. The class meets once a week for fifty minutes and the trips to Maine locations are offered every other week.

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.

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#### LEARNER OUTCOMES

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Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to to:

1. Articulate the qualities of good travel writing
2. Find and focus a potential story
3. Write a fact box for a destination
4. Develop observational skills and demonstrate them through journaling
5. Take notes for use as the foundation of each piece of writing
6. Maintain a travel journal
7. Take pictures to be used to accompany each piece of writing
8. Write vivid descriptions of travel experiences
9. Locate and describe characters
10. Develop an ear for dialog
11. Develop an angle for each piece of writing
12. Craft and structure a piece of travel writing
13. Write short compelling pieces of travel writing from 200 – 500 words

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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Week 1:	What is good travel writing?
Week 2:	Examples of good travel writing
Week 3:	Finding and focusing your story
Week 4:	Crafting and structure – the beginning, middle, and end
Week 5:	Crafting and structure – transitions
Week 6:	Bring your story to life – characters and descriptions
Week 7:	Show don't tell – exercises in enlivening your writing
Week 8:	Elements of style – use of first person, developing your voice
Week 9:	Rewriting and self-editing
Week 10:	The qualities of a good travel writer - use of vivid language, voice, tone
Week 11:	Readings from published travel writers –the dos and don'ts from professionals
Week 12:	Getting published – strategies and advice
Week 13:	Readings from travel writing editors
Week 14:	Your journal - presentation
Week 15:	Your travel writing - readings and wrap up discussion

**SATURDAY TRIPS:** TBD (depending on semester. Spring Semester includes: Portland, Freeport, Camden, Hermon Mountain, Mount Desert Island)

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**GRADES**

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The course is Pass/Fail

In order to pass the course, students must attend all class meetings, go on all trips, maintain a journal, and complete all assignments.

A short weekly assignment will be given each week based on in-class readings and discussion. Students will provide a portfolio consisting of three 500-word travel pieces based on trips they have been on during the course.

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**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

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Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. See <http://umaine.edu/studentlife/jad/academic-honesty-and-dishonesty/>

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**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY**

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If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Support Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE DISRUPTION POLICY**

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In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

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## **SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION REPORTING POLICY**

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The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of **sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination** involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

**If you want to talk in confidence** to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For *confidential resources on campus*: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000**.

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000** or **Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909**.

**Other resources:** The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*:

**Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406,**

**Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409,**

**University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911.**

Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>