

Travel Reporting Syllabus

RTV 4930/MMC6936

Instructor: Bridget Grogan

Office Hours: Available at all times while abroad or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will prepare you to manage a travel blog and write about a variety of subjects such as art, cuisine, fashion, history or fun venues to visit. Students will post to the blog a minimum of five times during the weeks we will be abroad. Every student will be required to post at least once to every vertical on the website, such as art, cuisine, history, etc. Your posts will include text, photos and external links and may include video, interviews, or other media that you deem appropriate for the post. You will shoot photos and video using your iPhone or other recording device of your choice.

Posts will include a minimum of 10 photos (with one featured photo and one photo gallery) per post. Your photo gallery should contain 3-4 photos, not all of your photos. The rest should be individually-displayed. All photos must be captioned with information that adds new details to the story. Each post must be 1,000 words or more.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Be concise – often I see very “wordy” writing. After you write a post, take time away from it, then go back and eliminate about 30% of your words. You should be able to do this without losing any meaning, information or context. Learn to reduce.

Avoid run-on sentences. I see this much more frequently than I should. Be concise. Limit your sentences to conveying one idea only. Use punctuation! Use good grammar and vocabulary. Blog writing can be less-than-formal in tone but should be grammatically correct. If you don’t know what a word means, don’t use it! Poor vocabulary is a common problem. This will really hurt your grade.

Write. Walk Away. Come back later and read for meaning, context, grammar and vocabulary. Edit/improve your work.

Caption ALL photos.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

Compose and shoot high-quality photographs

Add text, photos, links and video to a blog that deals with a specific subject matter

Create comprehensive blog posts that provide useful, engaging and thorough information to readers

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/GEAR:

No textbook required. Readings will be assigned by instructor throughout the course.

Laptop – Mac or PC is fine. Make sure you have sufficient free space to store photo and video files.

You will use your phone or DSLR camera to shoot photos and video for your blog posts. These files will need to be transferred to your laptop for use in your blogposts.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Blog Posts While Abroad (5).....100%

A lack of class attendance will dramatically affect your final grade. Every missed class will cost you one letter grade for the course. In other words, if your final grade is an A but you missed three classes, your final grade will be reduced to a D.

Class Schedule

Class	Subject	Due Dates
#1	Course Overview/Fieldwork on a class blog post	
#2	In-class work on the group field assignment	
#3	How to Shoot the Perfect Travel Photograph	blog post 1 due
#4	Blog Critiques: Lessons Learned	
#5	Field Work	blog post 2 due
#6	Blog Critiques: Lessons Learned	
#7	Field Work	blog post 3 due
#8	Field Work	
#9	Field Work	blog post 4 due
#10	Final Blog Assessments	blog post 5 due

Grade Scale

The UF grading policy can be found in the undergraduate catalog [online](#).

	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent
A	100-93%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
A-	92-90%	B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%
B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%		

Academic Integrity

You are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. Any violation of the academic integrity expected of you will result in a minimum academic sanction of a failing grade on the assignment and possibly a failing grade for the course. Any alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to Student Conduct and Conflict resolution. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/08/The-Orange-Book-Web.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the professor when requesting accommodation.

Help With Coping

The UF [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) is a terrific, free resource for any student who could use help managing stress or coping with life. The center, at 3190 Radio Road on campus, is open for appointments and emergency walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment or receive after-hours assistance, call 352-392-1575. You can also contact umatter@ufl.edu. The U Matter, We Care team can also help connect students to the many other helping resources including, but not limited to Victim Advocates, housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1. If you need assistance while we're in Europe, call on any faculty member or AIFS staff member.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online [evaluations](#). You will be notified by email when the evaluations are open. Summary [results](#) are available to you and the public.

Student Complaint Process

Students who have complaints about any course can use the links below for information about filing a complaint:

Residential Course: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>