

Travel Reporting

JOU4930/MMC6936



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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, fun places to visit, etc. Students will post once to each of the five assigned verticals. Posts must include text, photos and external links (required) and can also include video, interviews, or other media deemed 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. The photo gallery should contain 3-5 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. Each post will contain at least five hyperlinks to additional information and research about the topic. Each post will include a minimum of three quotes from at least two different people.

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. But write in complete sentences, not sentence fragments. 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:
- Create comprehensive blog posts that provide useful, engaging and thorough information to readers
- Conduct and appropriately cite research to add value for your readers
- Interview local residents and business owners to enhance cultural understanding
- Compose and shoot high-quality photographs
- Add appropriate text, photos, links and video to blogposts across a variety of subject matter

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/GEAR:

No textbook required.

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 (5).....100%

For Graduate Students only: In-Class Presentation/Critique of a Favorite Travel Reporter's Work:
Your grade will be divided equally among the 5 blogposts and this assignment.

For this assignment, you will select a professional travel writer to critique and do a short presentation about his or her work during class. Find a travel writer who inspires you, present some of his or her work, tell us what you like and WHY, and tell us what you think could be improved and HOW you would improve it. Make it fun and conversational. Presentations should be about 15 minutes long.

A lack of class attendance can affect your final grade but I will consider **legitimate, extenuating** circumstances.

Late work will lose 5 points for every day it is late.

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%		

Class Schedule

Class	Subject	Due Dates
Zoom Time/Date TBD	Course Overview/Basic Blog Tips	
Zoom Time/Date TBD	Storytelling Tips and Taking Great Photos	Blog Post 1 Due Apr 23 Cuisine Post
May 09	How to Travel Deeply and Write Well	
May 10	Keukenhof Photo Discussion Blog Critiques – Lessons Learned	Blog Post 2 Due May 14 Art Post
May 15	Grad Student Presentations – Examples of Great Travel Reporters OR Field Work	
May 17	Field Work	
May 20	Check-In and Field Work	Blog Post 3 Due May 20 Architecture Post
May 24	Field Work	
May 27	Blog Assessments	Blog Post 4 Due May 27 History Post
June 5	Wrapping It All Up Reflection Paper Observations Zoom Meeting (Time TBD)	Blog Post 5 Due June 5 Fun Places to Visit

BLOG GRADE SHEET

BLOG IDEA: _____

WORD COUNT (1,000 min): _____

WRITING (Structure): _____

WRITING (Informative/Appealing): _____

QUALITY OF RESEARCH: _____

PHOTO CAPTIONS: _____

PHOTO COMPOSITION/COUNT: _____

CHOICE OF PHOTOS: _____

PHOTO GALLERY: _____

LINKS (5 MIN. 5 pts each) _____

3 INTERVIEW QUOTES _____

OTHER: _____

TOTAL: _____

Point deductions will vary per item, depending on the quality of the work.

Reflection Paper

As part of your Study Abroad experience you will write and submit a two-page (550-word minimum) reflection paper. The student you are now is not the same person who left a few weeks ago. You've had many incredible moments packed into a short span of time and little downtime to think about it all. Taking time to reflect on your experience is important.

Your reflection paper must answer the following questions:

- What did you discover about yourself?
- How can you extend this experience into a professional setting?
- Discuss the people you met along your journey.
- What surprised you the most about your experience?
- What did you learn from a challenging situation you faced?

550+ words, double-spaced, 12pt font.

This paper is due June 5th at midnight on the Study Abroad Canvas Course. Final grades for your study abroad courses will not be processed until you have completed this paper.

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 abroad, call on any faculty member or AIFS staff member.

Course Evaluations

“Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

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.sfa.ufl.edu/written-student-complaints/>.

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