

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. Students will post to the blog a minimum of five times as spelled out in the schedule below. Every student will be required to post at least once to every vertical on the website, such as art, cuisine, fun places to visit, etc. Your posts must include text, photos and external links and can also 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 at the top and one photo gallery) per post. Your 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 that are not otherwise in 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 your 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:

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 is 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 videos 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 blog posts and this assignment.)

For this assignment, you will select a professional travel writer to present about and critique 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! Presentations should be 15 minutes long.

A lack of class attendance will affect your final grade.
Late work will lose 5 points for every day it is late.

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.

Class Dates	Subject	Due Dates
Online/asynchronous	Watch the Syllabus Review and Basic Blog Tips lecture Create your travel reporting webpage and submit the link to Professor Grogan for approval by March 21	March 21 March 21
Online/asynchronous	Watch the Storytelling Tips and Taking Great Photos lecture	March 28 April 11 - fun places to visit blog post due
April 11	Submit your first blog post - upload the web link in the Canvas blog post assignment	April 11
May 9 in London	How to Travel Deeply and Write Well lecture	
May 10 in London	Keukenhof Photo Discussion	May 10 - cuisine blog post due
May 15 in London	Blog Critiques – Lessons Learned	
May 17 in London	Check-In and Field Work	May 17 - art blog post due
May 20 in London	Check-in and Field Work	
May 24 in Crete	Blog Assessments	May 24 - architecture blog post due
May 27 in Crete	Wrapping It All Up	May 31 - history blog post due

Grade Scale

The UF grading policy can be found in the undergraduate catalog [online.Links to an external site.](#)

	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/Links to an external site.>
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2018/08/The-Orange-Book-Web.pdfLinks to an external site.>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center Links to an external site.](#)(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 Links to an external site.](#) 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 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/Links to an external site.>. 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/Links to an external site.>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/Links to an external site.>."

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/Links to an external site.>

Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-processLinks to an external site.>