

**Travel Writing 2219F Section: 650 Email: [mchambe4@uwo.ca](mailto:mchambe4@uwo.ca)**

**Office: Room 1422 University College**

**Instructor: Melanie Chambers, virtual appointment**

**Course description:** from memoir to insider advice to cultural observations, travel

a 'real world' scenario. Editing and rewriting are critical to improving and sculpting a story for publication. As an editor, you will learn to critique and help shape fellow students' work and as a writer, you must get used to adopting and/or rejecting editing

## Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

## Attendance Policies

### Discussion Forum Guidelines:

*'The use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated.'*

Note that 'attendance' as defined in this section is mandatory in this course. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements as defined above for any week where there is Discussion will result in your earned final grade in this course being reduced by 3%. That penalty is cumulative to a maximum of five weeks. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements for five or more weeks where there is Discussion will result in your earned final grade being reduced by 15%

The Forum is available between **Monday 8 a.m. until Friday at 5 p.m.** Forum questions will be based on weekly LECTUREs and readings.

**Requirement: Assignment discussions.** Before every assignment, I will meet online (post a calendar) with students to discuss their approach and concerns for each assignment. These will be 15 minute discussions to ensure you're on track and



explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). **All medical documentation must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of

<p>WEEK 1 Sept 8-Sept 17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LECTURE</b></p> <p>The difference between a traveller and a tourist; What makes a good travel idea – the angle of your story; Qualities of a good travel writer (travel journalist)</p>
<p>FORUM</p>	<p>Introduce yourself (reveal your <b>speciality</b>, if you have one when you travel- what you like to do/see)  Comment on the readings: what does the information reveal about each place?  Finally, what do you notice about the tone and style of each?</p>
<p>READING</p>	<p>1. Stories online: Cuba, Poland, BC.</p>
<p>WEEK 2 Sept 19-24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LECTURE</b></p> <p>Creating a sense of place in travel writing.</p>

FORUM

READ POOR SENSE OF PLACE - how is this story lacking a sense of place?  
Provide examples of travelease (define in the Zinnser reading) or other cliches, too!  
How does the Peru story reveal sense of place? Choose one example.

WEEK 3 Sept 26-Oct 1	<b>LECTURE</b>  Writing first person – your hometown
READING	1. Online: eight one-page stories.
FORUM	Comment online about style and tone.
WEEK 4 Oct 3-8	<b>LECTURE</b>  Pre trip research

FORUM

What strikes you about Bryson’s use of facts in these chapters? Provide an example. Find two facts about your hometown--what do they reveal? What is the central idea of your hometown that you might write about? How would these facts reinforce this (they don't have to, but they might!)

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**READINGS**

2. Polish Pierogies
3. Haida Gwaii
4. Italy and kids

**FORUM**

The lead sets the tone. Compare the story leads from the three readings. What are the



FORUM

What do you want to write about for your feature? What is timely about—why would someone want to read about it now?

What are the angles (themes) of both Cuban stories? What new things do you learn about the country from the two writers' approaches?