Class code: IDSEM-UG 9205 F01

Instructor Details
Name: Scott Palmer
NYU Email Address: snp1@nyu.edu
Office Hours: W 13:30-14:45 and by appointment
Villa Colletta Office Location: Ground Floor
Villa Colletta Office Extension: 281

For fieldtrips refer to the email with trip instructions and trip assistant’s cell phone number

Class Details
Semester: Spring 2018
Full Title of Course: Italian Sketchbook: Travel Writing and Digital Storytelling
Meeting Days and Times: W 15:00-16:15
Classroom Location: Aula Capponi (Villa Colletta)

Prerequisites

Class Description
Why do we travel? Where do we go and how do we get there? How do we document and remember the places we’ve been?

“Travel dislodges thoughts” argues the photographer Sharon Harper. Indeed when gazing at the images from her series Flight/Flug, a traveler is reminded of the vertiginous view from the window of a high speed train, the landscape blurred by velocity. The train’s movement is projected onto the rolling landscape in a reproduction of the sensation of movement, like staring out a window and letting one’s mind drift.

Writing and representing travel and mobility are crucial mechanisms by which we situate ourselves within the world and are as old as the history of the written word. Furthermore narrating movement is tightly bound not only with public models of collective expression, such as nationality and class, but also with more private conceptions of identity and family.

This course will reference a wide range of forms—the essay, the journal, the sketchbook, the map, the photograph, the human voice—through which an author represents the thoughts and sensations of mobility. We will also explore many different authorial subject positions such as: cartographer, pilgrim, explorer, fugitive, and tourist.

In our study of these forms we will focus on two primary impulses: observation and creation. We will trace how traveling subjects observed and recorded the world as expressions of artistic representation, scientific discovery and comparative sociocultural analysis AND we will focus on the strategies and techniques, in particular the interchange between word and image, employed by authors and artists as we translate these familiar approaches into new digital
forms. Italy, and in particular Florence, will serve as the most immediate conceptual and physical context for investigation. We will thus be able to link the textual and visual material studied in the classroom with the world beyond the boundaries of the La Pietra campus.

**Desired Outcomes**

At the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

- Understand significant historical and conceptual elements that characterize travel writing and narrative mobility.
- Recognize various subject positions which writers have adopted to document and represent the experience of travel.
- Articulate the process of developing a concept and strategy for a creative digital storytelling project.
- Tell a compelling and original story with digital media.

**Assessment Components**

*Active engagement in class discussions and participation in online tools (such as group research and the class photo pool) are mandatory.* Reading assignments should be completed for the day indicated for that particular class session (i.e. if a reading assignment is scheduled for 4/10, read it before 4/10). Assigned readings form the basis for class discussion, so it is essential that you have read each week’s assigned texts and come to class prepared to discuss them. Likewise, films listed in the course schedule should be viewed *before* class. Each student is expected to contribute one *original* photographs each week to the [group photo pool](#). Participation is worth 10% of the final course grade.

*Works-in-Progress Workshops*

During the two scheduled works-in-progress workshops, all students will share the current state of their final projects and will receive structured feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of each. Successful and active participation in these workshops is worth 10% of the final course grade.

*Digital Sketchbook*

A series of multimedia assignments will be proposed over the course of the semester, each of which explores a different approach to the [Digital Sketchbook](#) (audio recording, collage, descriptive writing, etc.). Each student must complete three of these assignments (#1 The Envelope, should be completed by all students). These analyses are worth 30% of the course grade.

*Final Project*

This will consist of a *creative multimedia project* (audio/video/image, etc.) that explores one of the particular themes or subjects covered in this course. The emphasis should be on storytelling and analysis rather than technical excellence. Two individual conferences with the instructor are required for this project. The first conference should be scheduled before 3/2 to identify potential areas of investigation for the final project and to discuss possible formats. A second follow-up conference should be completed. The final project will be introduced to the class in a 5-10 minute *presentation* at the end of the semester. Additionally, a *reflective essay* of no less than 1000 words, describing the process of producing the project and/or analyzing the concepts presented within it is required. This assignment is worth 50% of the final grade.

*Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.*

**Assessment Expectations**

Grade A: The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are
concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

Grade B: The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

Grade C: The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement

Grade D: The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the follow areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

Grade F: The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

Grade conversion

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Grading Policy

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Attendance Policy

Attendance:

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a
single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

For courses that meet once a week, **one** unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to **two** unexcused absences.

**Excused Absences:**

In case of absence, **regardless of the reason**, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student.

The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absence Due to Illness</th>
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<tr>
<td>● If you are sick, please see a doctor (contact the Office of Student Life for information).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 24 HRS of your return to class via the online NYU Florence Absence Form: <a href="http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN">http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● We will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness. We will not notify your faculty about these absences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences. In case of absence on the day of an academic field trip/site visit or for an exam/test/quiz, in order to reschedule the exam/test/quiz or be reimbursed for transport or entry fees for a missed fieldtrip/site visit, a medical certificate must be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Due to Religious Observance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form: <a href="http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN">http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN</a>. Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form: <a href="http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN">http://goo.gl/forms/PiID8BM88DN</a>. Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.</td>
</tr>
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Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu
### Late Submission of Work

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date.
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

### Plagiarism Policy

**PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:**
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.

For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key.

### The Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in Aula Volterra in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting. Sign up for a consultation at wp.nyu.edu/florencewriting/ and submit your working draft or ideas a day in advance to florence.writingcenter@nyu.edu. Drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Be assured that very rough drafts are welcome. Please note that we do not correct or “fix” your writing; instead we prompt you to think and work. Our aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.

### Required Text(s)

Mohsin Hamid *Exit West*

Electronic resources available via NYU Classes/Google Drive

### Internet Research Guidelines

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

### Additional Required Equipment

### Session 1

**[2/7]**

**Defining Travel: Canvas, Map, Journal, Archive**

- Signup for class photo pool
- Create account on Digital Sketchbook companion site

- Teju Cole *Far Away From Here*
- Elisabeth Bishop *Questions of Travel*
- Sam Cooke *Far Away Places*
| Session 2  | Observation & Documentation | Italo Calvino “Tamara” “Ersilia”  
Joan Didion “On Keeping A Notebook”  
Georges Perec “The Street, The Town, Space”  
“Augie’s Project” (Smoke 1995)  
“The Facts” (Memento 2000)  
Courtney Barnett “Elevator Operator” |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/14      | Assignment: Digital Sketchbook - The Envelope (Due 2/18) | Virginia Woolf “Street Haunting”  
Lauren Elkin “Flâneuse-ing”  
Valeria Luiselli “Manifesto à Velo”  
Garnette Cadogan “Walking While Black”  
Ruth Orkin “Jinx Allen in Florence”  
B52’s “Roam” |
| Session 3 | The Flâneuse               | Michel De Certeau “Spatial Stories”  
Daneila Zyman & Janet Cardiff Excerpt from The Walk Book  
Jonathan Gotschall “The Storytelling Animal”  
Janet Cardiff The Missing Voice (1999)  
Massive Attack “Unfinished Sympathy” |
| 2/21      | Digital Storytelling       | Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Excerpt from Italian Journey  
Hajj Sayyah Excerpt from An Iranian in Nineteenth Century Europe, The Travel Diaries of Hâj Sayyâh 1859-1877  
Roberto Rossellini “Episode 2” (Paisan 1946)  
Pino Daniele “Napule à” |
| 2/28      | Assignment: Digital Sketchbook - Florentine Soundscape (Due 3/4)  
Complete introductory project conference with instructor by 3/2, 1 page project proposal due | |
| Session 5/6 | The Grand Tourist Field Trip to Naples (overnight) | Petrarch “Ascent of Mount Ventoux” |
| 3-9/10    | Assignment: Digital Sketchbook - A Neapolitan Tale (Due 3/18) | |
| Session 7 | First Works-in-Progress Workshop | |
| 3/14      | Assignment: Preliminary Project Outline (500 words) due 3/13 for group evaluation in project folder | |
| Session 8 | The Stranger | Homer “Stranger at the Gates”  
J.B. Jackson “The Stranger’s Path”  
“The Stranger Comes to Town” (High Plains Drifter 1973)  
“Eleven” (Stranger Things 2016)  
The Doors “People Are Strange” |
| 3/21      | Assignment: Digital Sketchbook - The Stranger Assembled (Due 3/27 by 10PM) | Begin Mohsin Hamid Exit West |
| Session 9 | Second Works-in-Progress Workshop | |
| 3/28      | Assignment: Project Update (250 words) due 3/27 for group evaluation in project folder | |
| Sessions 10/11 | The Pilgrim | Goethe “The Pilgrim Strides Out Busily”  
|  [4/13] | Field trip to Franciscan Monastery of La Verna | Bauman “From Pilgrim to Tourist”  
|  | Assignment: Digital Sketchbook - Pilgrim’s Diary (Due 4/16) | Locatelli “Mecca Goes Mega”  
|  |  | VR 360 “Farewell” (Flowers of St. Francis 1950)  
|  |  | Neko Case “Wayfaring Stranger”  
| Session 12 | The Exile | Iain Chambers “An Impossible Homecoming”  
|  [4/18] |  | Finish Mohsin Hamid Exit West  
|  |  | Samar Yazbek “The First Crossing”  
|  |  | Eliza Griswold “Mapping the Jouney of Syria’s Artists”  
|  |  | Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 13-15)  
| Session 13 | Individual Project Meetings |  
|  [4/19-5/2] |  |  
| Session 14 | Sketchbook Project Presentations |  
|  [5/11] |  |  
| Session 15 | Sketchbook Project Presentations | Final Projects Due  
|  [5/16] |  |  

| Classroom Etiquette |  
|  | ● Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.  
|  | ● Cell phones should be turned off during class time.  
|  | ● The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.  
|  | ● We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings  

| Required Co-curricular Activities |  
|  | 3/9-10 Naples  
|  | 4/13 Monastery of La Verna  

| Suggested Co-curricular Activities |  
|  | LPD Series on Black Italia (see calendar for various events)  
|  | February 20 at 6:00 p.m. - Villa Sassetti - LPD  
|  | The Game: Migrant Life on the Border of Eastern Europe  
|  | Mario Badagliacca, Photographer  

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April 10-15, Locations around Florence
The Middle East Now Film Festival

May 2 at 6:00 pm, Villa La Pietra
Made in Italy or Made in China?
Chinese-Italian Cultural Identities in the Age
of Migration and Globalization
Acton Lectures
Gaoheng Zhang, University of British Columbia
Valentina Pedone, Università di Firenze

Your Instructor
Scott Palmer has been teaching courses on writing and cultural studies at New York University Florence since 2005. His research interests focus on nineteenth-century literature and visual culture, especially the intersection between mobility, race and image-making. Dr. Palmer has both a BA and an MA in English from the University of Oregon as well as an MA in Anglo-American Literary Relations from University College London. He received his PhD in American Literature from Tufts University.