

# NYU Prague

## JOUR-UA9302P01

### PRODUCTION & PUBLICATION: TRAVEL WRITING

#### Fall 2018

#### Instructor Information

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#### Course Information

- JOUR UA9302P01
- **PRODUCTION & PUBLICATION: TRAVEL WRITING**
- Monday and Wednesday 9-10:20 am
  - Toyen - RD

#### Course Overview and Goals

“I was trying to write... and I found the greatest difficulty was to put down what really happened in action; what the actual things were which produced the emotion that you experienced...the real thing, the sequence of motion and fact which made the emotion and which would be as valid in a year or ten years or, with luck and if you stated it purely enough, always.” (Ernest Hemingway)

The course focuses on combining the creative techniques of fiction with the rigor of journalistic travel writing to produce stories about Prague (not only) that move beyond the constraints of the news and feature story: stories that engage, resonate with readers, provide insight – stories which “produce the emotion”.

The course proceeds by the reading and analysis of important contemporary journalism and classic travel pieces: examination of the narrative; fictional and literary devices used in travel writing; examination of and practice with various information gathering strategies; humor; point of view; unique voice. Distinguished Czech travel writers/journalists/photographers will be invited as guest lecturers.

Prague Travel Writing focuses on the creative process from the first idea to the identification of sources, choice of appropriate style and form, revisions, editing and the presentation of works. You will be encouraged to attempt a variety of forms to examine your own writing processes, to try methods used by professional writers (such as journal writing). You will also continually develop stories from your own travel experiences. The regular assignments will prepare you for the final project: a substantial travel narrative of your own. At specific times during the semester, we will use the workshop process and class discussion to help you develop your pieces. Please note: you are expected to read and evaluate each others' papers as part of this process.

**Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:**

- Finding your own voice.
- Understanding that it is the people that make for unique stories.
- Using humor, dialog and other creative devices in nonfiction writing.
- Presenting an accurate and compelling evocation and assessment of a place.
- Bringing that place at the writer’s experience to life so vividly that the reader is transported there.
- Making the world a better place – thanks to choosing important topics for your writing.

## Course Requirements

This is a journalism class with 4 written assignments and 10 travel journal entries.

All written assignments will be (in great details) specified in class:

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

### Assignment 1

Short article I A 500-word Czech food feature.

### Assignment 2

Short article II A 700-word profile of a Czech person

### Tests & Quizzes

Mid-term article A 1000-word Prague travel feature plus pictures on a given theme.

### Final reportage

1500-word in-depth piece of travel magazine reportage.

## Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Attendance	10 %
Travel Journal and iPhone workshop pictures	15 %
Class participation and readings	10 %
Short article I, Food article	10 %
Mid-term article, European travel feature	20 %
Short article II, profile of a person	10%
Final travel reportage	25 %

## Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	94 % and higher
A-	90– 93 %
B+	92-87%
B	84-86 %
B-	80-83 %
C+	77-82%
C	72-76%
C-	75-70 %
D+	69-67%
D	66-65 %
D-	64-60 %
F	59 % and lower

### Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Exceptional level of creative and structured journalism writing, publishable (or published during the semester).

Grade B: Very good level or creative and structured written work, with some editing needed.

Grade C: Satisfactory and sufficiently clear and structured written work.

Grade D: Adequate level of written work but weakly creative, vague, unstructured.

Grade F: Unfinished, poorly structured, vague, unclear written work.

### Course Schedule

#### Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Monday, September 3	<b>Introduction, Course Outline</b>	Special assignment for the whole course: Start an “old-fashioned” travel journal (ideally a blog) and write at least one paragraph in it every day. Occasional class readings from your journal will be expected.	
Session 2 Wednesday, September 5	<b>Prague: This Is My City</b>	The NYU bubble, the language barrier, the beauty of our comfort zones. How to fight it. Explore, test, and be disappointed. Talk to the people. Basic skills needed for the course Required readings: Pico Iyer: <a href="#">Why We Travel</a> . <a href="https://www.salon.com/2000/03/18/why/">https://www.salon.com/2000/03/18/why/</a> Ian Wiloughby: <a href="#">Evan Rail – My Prague</a> , Czech Radio Prague, October 12,	TRAVEL JOURNAL 1: Bring your travel journal with you. Write one short paragraph about a surprising phenomenon you observed since arriving in Prague. Is there a seed for

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		2013. <a href="http://www.radio.cz/en/section/my-prague/my-prague-ewan-rail">http://www.radio.cz/en/section/my-prague/my-prague-ewan-rail</a> Evan Rail: <a href="#">My Hidden Prague</a> , The New York Times, published November 16, 2012. <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/18/travel/my-hidden-prague.html?_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/18/travel/my-hidden-prague.html?_r=0</a> Evan Rail: <a href="#">Beyond Goulash</a> and Dumplings in Prague, The New York Times, July 9, 2013. <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/travel/beyond-goulash-and-dumplings-in-prague.html?pagewanted=all">http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/travel/beyond-goulash-and-dumplings-in-prague.html?pagewanted=all</a>	a travel story? Class discussion.
Session 3 Monday, September 10	<b>How to Survive in Prague 1: Discovering Place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>	<b>Why destination is not yet a story.</b> Selected chapters in: <i>The Mammoth Book of Journalism</i> , Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2003. Jack London ( <i>The San Francisco Earthquake</i> , 1906), p. 107-113 (7 pages). (know your City) John Steinbeck ( <i>Death in the Dust</i> , 1936), p. 200-204 (5 pages). (know your people) George Orwell ( <i>The Moon Under Water</i> , 1946), p. 274-276 (4 pages). (dream a bit)	TRAVEL JOURNAL 2: What is the Prague and/or Czech Republic hot news right now? Why? Write three topics, which would be worth covering this week (think of travel writing flavor). Class discussion.
Session 4 Wednesday, September 12	<b>Writing About Prague: Captivating Theme, Dramatic Scenes</b>	<b>Developing a Clear Narrative, Concrete Details. Travelogue. The angle. The hook.</b> Richard Kapucinski: <i>Christmas Eve in Uganda</i> , Granta 26. London Penguin Books, 1989, p. 11-17 (7 pages).	TRAVEL JOURNAL 3: Write a short dramatic scene from the streets, stores or pubs of Prague.
Session 5 Monday, September 17	<b>A Cook's Tour</b>	Anthony Bourdain: <i>Kitchen Confidential. Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly</i> . London, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2000, p. 79-98 (20 pages). Brad Wetzler: <a href="#">Is Just Like Amerika!</a> Outside Magazine, November 2000, <a href="https://www.outsideonline.com/1887181/just-amerika">https://www.outsideonline.com/1887181/just-amerika</a> (10 pages)	TRAVEL JOURNAL 4: Write a journal entry about your favorite Czech meal. Why do you like it? Think more about the culture identity rather than the taste.
Session 6 Wednesday, September 19	<b>How do we find starving puppy? Prague, the city of luxury.</b>	<b>Watching REPORTER (2009).</b> It is a feature documentary about Nicholas Kristof, the two-time Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the New York Times, who almost single-handedly put the crisis in Darfur on the world map.	
Session 7 Monday, September 24	<b>GUEST LECTURE</b>	See the books <i>The Devil Within Us</i> , <i>My American Beauty</i> (reserved in the library) and <a href="http://www.sibik.cz">www.sibik.cz</a> prepare 2 questions for the guest speaker	<b>SHORT ARTICLE I (FOOD FEATURE) DUE</b>

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Session 8 Wednesday, September 26	<b>On the Road I: Research Before You Go</b>	Jacy Meyer: Roma children kept separate and unequal, The New York Times, July 7, 2013. (1 page) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/08/world/europe/roma-children-kept-separate-and-unequal.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/08/world/europe/roma-children-kept-separate-and-unequal.html</a> Dan Bilefsky: Angry at Prague, The New York Times, October 21, 2013. (2 pages) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/world/europe/artist-makes-public-criticism-of-czech-politics.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/world/europe/artist-makes-public-criticism-of-czech-politics.html</a>	TRAVEL JOURNAL 5: What do you know about “us” (the contemporary Prague citizens) so far? Class discussion and readings.
Session 9 Monday, October 1		Workshop of Short Articles I & Discussion of Midterm Topics / Group I (reading of Short Articles required – approx. 30 pages)	
Session 10 Wednesday, October 3	<b>On the Road II: Information Gathering Strategies</b>	Czech Travelers Miroslav Zikmund-Jiří Hanzelka – articles to be given in class - DVD	
Session 11 Monday, October 8	<b>On the Road III – Interviewing in Prague</b>	William Shaw: <i>Design for Living in Zlin, Czech Republic</i> , The New York Times, March 25, 2007 (2 pages). Craig S. Smith: <i>British Bachelor-Parties Are Taking Their Revels East</i> , The New York Times, May 8, 2007 (2 pages). Evan Rail: <i>Eastern Europe: English on Continental Shelves</i> , The New York Times, October 8, 2006 (2 pages). John T. Edge: <i>The Kolache: Czech, Texan or All-American?</i> (All Three), The New York Times, October 7, 2013 (4 pages) <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/dining/the-kolache-czech-texan-or-all-american-all-three.html?pagewanted=all">http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/dining/the-kolache-czech-texan-or-all-american-all-three.html?pagewanted=all</a>	TRAVEL JOURNAL 6: An Interview with a Czech person who does not speak English
Session 12 Wednesday, October 10	<b>DVD</b>	<b>DVD: Michael Pallin Collection – Hemingway Adventures</b>	
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 13 Monday, October 22	<b>Travel Trends for Millennials</b>	Class discussion. How do we travel in 2016? How important is to be online and why? Facebook? Instagram? Twitter? Off-line fashion, new trends, traveling in the next decade. What do we need for a dream holiday?	<b>MID-TERM ARTICLE DUE</b>
Session 14 Wednesday, October 24	<b>People and Their Voices – Dialogue</b>	Peter Mayle: <i>A Year in Provence</i> . Vintage Book, 1991, p. 1-23 (23 pages). Stephen Clarke: <i>A Year in the Merde</i> . Bloomsbury, 2006, p. 1-35 (35 pages). Please note: this book is a FICTION	TRAVEL JOURNAL 7 Write a dialog and let us to guess who talks to whom,

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
			why, what is the situation and the who people are in. Where is the dramatic tension? How do we use it in journalism writing?
Session 15 Monday, October 29		Workshop of Midterm Articles GROUP I & Discussion of Final Topics (reading of Midterms required – approx. 40 pages)	
Session 16 Wednesday, October 31		Workshop of Midterm Articles GROUP I & Discussion of Final Topics (reading of Midterms required – approx. 40 pages)	
Session 17 Monday, November 5	<b>Humor</b>		TRAVEL JOURNAL 8 Choose a story in your travel journal you find humorous. Where is the humor? Class discussion and readings.
Session 18 Wednesday, November 7	Pros and Cons of Narrating in First Person.	Selected chapters in: Slavenka Drakulic: <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i> , Harper Perennial, 1993. <i>Pizza in Warsaw, Torte in Prague</i> , p. 11-20 (10 pages). <i>Make-up and Other Crucial Questions</i> , p. 21-32 (12 pages). <i>A Communist Eye, or What Did I See in New York?</i> , p. 113-122 (10 pages).	TRAVEL JOURNAL 9 Write a story about you day-to-day routine (shopping, going to the gym) and try to make it relatable to the general audience
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes	DVD Mark Cousins: " <b>What Is This Film Called Love?</b> "	<b>SHORT ARTICLE (PROFILE) DUE</b>
Session 19 Monday, November 12		<b>Discussion about the Final Topics</b> OUTLINE	
Session 20 Wednesday, November 14	<b>What Makes Good Writing</b>	● <b>Recommended Readings:</b> I. Hunter Thompson: The Kentucky Derby is Decadent and Deprived, p. 195-211 (17 pages). In: Wolfe, T and Jonson, E.W. (eds.), <i>The New Journalism</i> , New York, Harper & Row, 1973. Other articles will be given in class	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 21 Monday, November 19		<b>Workshop of Short Articles 3 (profiles) / &amp; Discussion of Final Reportages</b> (reading of Short Articles 3 (profiles) required – approx. 30 pages)	
Session 22 Wednesday, November 21		<b>iPhone Workshop I</b> The World Press Photo Winner and renowned reporter Jan Slibik will introduce you the basic skills of professional iPhone photography. You will be given an <b>individual artistic project</b> to do on your own time in the City of Prague.	
Session 23 Monday, November 26		<b>iPhone Workshop II</b> Analysis of your iPhone work	
Session 24 Wednesday, November 28	Pitching and writing short-form articles	Pitching and writing short-form articles for travel magazines and online publications	Be prepared to pitch three short time-related travel articles. Each pitch should have less than 10 words.
Session 25 Monday, December 3	Writing Which Matters	<b>The Future of Travel Writing</b> Tom Junod: <i>The Falling Man</i> , Esquire: September 2003, Volume 140, Issue 3. <b>Discussion of Final Reportages</b>	Be prepared to pitch three long, substantial travel articles. Each pitch should have less than 10 words.
Session 26 Wednesday, December 5	GUEST SPEAKER	Travel writer Mark Baker <a href="http://www.markbakerprague.com">www.markbakerprague.com</a> The Basics of Guidebook Writing. Mark will talk about how the business works and how authors carry out research as well as give some tips for researching and writing in this format.	
Session 27 Monday, December 10	Prague bars	Visit to a bohemian coffee shop near NYU	<b>TRAVEL JOURNAL 10</b> Is Prague still bohemian? Describe three of your favorite bars/restaurants/coffee shops in Prague.
Session 28 Wednesday, December 12 (last day of classes)		NO CLASS. Students to work on papers. 10-15-minute individual consultations (previously scheduled) are compulsory.	
Session 29 Monday, December 17	Final exam	NO CLASS. Students to work on papers. 10-15-minute individual consultations (previously scheduled) are compulsory.	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 30 Wednesday, December 19	Final exam	<b>FINAL REPORTAGE DUE</b> (hard copy in Veronika Bednarova's mailbox). Deadline 11:00 am	

## Course Materials

### Required Textbooks & Materials

- Travel Writing Reader

### Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

- Travel Writing Section / the NYU P Library

### Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

## Course Policies

### Attendance and Tardiness

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor's note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Academic Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

**Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.**

### Late Submission of Work

If late, without a valid reason, your grade will be

lowered by 2 % each day. Keeping to a deadline is crucial in the profession.

### Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

**Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.**

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

**“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).**

**Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”**

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” **(Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)**

## **Disability Disclosure Statement**

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.