Schedule of Readings, Viewings and Assignments

The course anthology is *The Best American Travel Writing 2013*, ed. Elizabeth Gilbert (Mariner Books, 2013). Other readings and viewings occur online, as indicated below. **Please note:** the Overview document in each Unit is required reading subject to quiz questions. If you miss the initial posting deadline for a discussion assignment (the date by which you must post your own response to the query), you will lose points on that assignment.

**Introductory**

(Jan 23 - 25)

*Jan. 25 is the Add/Drop deadline (with full refund).*

**Readings/viewings:** Read the course description and all other materials in the "Handouts" folder, the Overview: “Why Do We Travel?” and the “Foreword and “Introduction” in our anthology of travel writing

Pico Iyer, “Why We Travel” @

“What is Creative Nonfiction?” by Barrie Jean Borich @
http://barriejeanborich.com/what-is-creative-nonfiction-an-introduction/

Indie Travel Manifesto” @ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYIRLeiLtNs

Jessa Crispin, "How not to be Elizabeth Gilbert" @
http://bostonreview.net/books-ideas/jessa-crispin-female-travel-writing

Paul Theroux, “Why We Travel” @
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/03/travel/03Cover.html?_r=0

**Assignments:**

1) Introduce yourself on the course site (by midnight Jan 24); (2) Participate in the Practice Discussion (unscored but required; due by midnight Jan 25)

**Unit I: Great Escapes**

(Jan 26 – Feb 1)

*Jan. 27 is the Drop deadline (with half refund and "W" grade).*

**Readings/viewings:** Peter Jon Lindberg, “Summerland,”
John Jeremiah Sullivan, “A Prison, A Paradise”
E. B. White, “Once More to the Lake” @

“Rainy Vacation at Pine Point Maine (2009) @
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzl6Rvkj1DE

Daniel Levitin, “Hit the Reset Button in Your Brain” @
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/opinion/sunday/hit-the-reset-button-in-your-brain.html?_r=0

Cuba image album at http://bit.ly/1n6MTGg

Stacey Mickelbart, “Writing from Memory” @
http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/writing-from-memory

**Assignment:** “Great Escapes” Discussion (10 pts.) – post your own essay by Jan 31 and your responses to others by Feb 1
Unit II: Essences  
(Feb 2 - 8)  
Feb. 7 is the Pass/Fail filing deadline  

Readings/viewings: David Farley, “Vietnam’s Bowl of Secrets”  
Bernd Brunner, “The Wild Dogs of Istanbul”  
Christopher de Ballaigue, “Caliph of the Tricksters”  
David Sedaris, “Dentists without Borders”  

Hoi An, Vietnam at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z58HvRNBCiE  
Books and Dogs Blog at http://michielheyns.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-dogs-of-istanbul-these-mad-lost.html  
The real Dentists without Borders @ http://www.dentistswithoutborders.org/  
“Cockfighting in Kabul” @ http://darkroom.baltimoresun.com/2013/03/cockfighting-in-kabul/#1  
“What are the Ethics of Tourism” @ http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2011/September.html  
“Sex, Lies, and Free Accommodation: the Ethics of Travel Writing” @ http://bit.ly/1txvIEL  

Assignments: (1) “Essences” Discussion (10 points) - post your own essay by Feb 7 and your responses to others by Feb 8  
(2) Units 1 & 2 Quiz (5 points) – due Feb 8  

Unit III: Urban Excursions  
(Feb 9 - 15)  

Readings/viewings: Dimiter Kenarov, “Bombing Sarajevo”  
Sam Anderson, “The Pippiest Place on Earth”  
Grant Stoddard, “The Paid Piper”  
Rich Cohen, “Pirate City”  

“Great Expectations for Dickens World” at http://content.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,1278020826,00.html  
“Searching for Laffite the Pirate” at http://www.frenchquarter.com/history/jeanlaffitte.php  
Dave Hood, “Writing Creative Nonfiction: Narrative History” @ http://bit.ly/1ogTHRg  

Assignment: “Urban Excursion” Discussion (10 points) - post your own essay by Feb 14 and your responses to others by Feb 15  

Unit IV: The Middle of Nowhere  
(Feb 16 - 22)  

Please note: this unit includes a project planning assignment, in addition to the discussion of readings and a quiz. Please plan ahead to accomplish your work on time.
Readings/viewings:
Read the Storyboard assignment instructions, view the examples, plan your storyboard, and post any questions to the Ask and Answer forum by Feb. 16.
Colleen Kinder, “Blot Out”
Judy Copeland, “The Way I’ve Come”

“Mona Eltahaway Explains why Women are Hated in the Middle East” on NPR’s “Morning Edition” at @ http://n.pr/1qtHdqU (Click “listen to the story”) 
“Papua New Guinea” – profile of an adventure photographer at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWrrxvOYWEo
Cheri Register, “The Personal in Creative Nonfiction” @ https://writersblock.loft.org/2012/12/12/1812/the_personal_in_creative_nonfiction

Assignments: (1) Storyboard (Project Planning, 5 points) – post your work by Feb 17; work posted by noon Feb. 16 will receive instructor feedback before the deadline; (2) “Middle of Nowhere” Discussion (10 points) - post your own essay by Feb 21 and your responses to others by Feb 22; (3) Units 3 & 4 Quiz (5 points) – due Feb 22

Unit V: One World
(Feb 23 - Mar 1)
Feb. 28 is the course Withdrawal deadline.

Readings/viewings: Sarah Topol, “Tea and Kidnapping”
Marie Arana, “Dreaming of El Dorado”; the essay is also online with slideshows at http://www.vqronline.org/essay/dreaming-el-dorado
Jesse Dukes, “Babu on the Bad Road”; the essay is also online with slideshows at http://www.vqronline.org/articles/babu-bad-road

“Who Are Egypt’s Sinai Bedouin” at http://egyptianstreets.com/2014/04/27/who-are-egypts-sinai-bedouin/

Assignment: “One World” Discussion (10 points) - post your own essay by Feb 28 and your responses to others by Mar 1

Unit VI: Spirit Journeys
(Mar 2 - 8)

Readings/viewings: Kevin Chroust, “The Bull Passes Through”
Daniel Tyx, “The Year I Didn’t”
Ian Frazier, “A Farewell to Yarns”

Rick Steves, “Running of the Bulls” at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmp4DjtWcuw
A yarn by Ian Frazier at http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/05/27/recherche

**Assignments:**
1. “Spirit Journeys” Discussion (10 points) - post your own essay by Mar 7 and your responses to others by Mar 8
2. Units 5 & 6 Quiz (5 points) – due Mar 8

**Note:** informal project conferencing available from Mar 2 - 9: access link via the Conclusions folder

**Conclusions**
(Mar 9 - 13)

**Project conference** (informal, optional, and unscored): open from Mar 2 - 9

**Assignments:**
1. Extra Credit project (optional, 5 points) – Due Mar 10
2. Term Project (original travel writing, 20 points) – due Mar 13

Course evaluations begin March 2: University Extension will send you instructions on how to complete the course evaluation.

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**Summary of Assignments (105 pts. Available)**
- 6 Discussions @ 10 pts. each = 60 pts.
- 3 Quizzes @ 5 pts. Each = 15 pts.
- Storyboard planning project @ 5 pts = 5 pts.
- Term project @ 20 pts. = 20 pts.
- Extra Credit (optional) @ 5 pts. = 5 pts.
- Total = 105 pts.

The course grade is determined by adding all the points you accrue. A total score of 100 – 105 is an A+; a score of 95-99 is an A; a score of 90-94 is an A-; a score of 87-89 is a B+, a score of 84-86 is a B, a score of 80-83 is a B-, and so on.