



## Travel Writing in Bologna: Storytelling about Places

June 14-28, 2018 (JMS: 04:567:452)

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*“Travelers and tourists, the distinction is simple: Tourists are those who bring their homes with them wherever they go, and apply them to whatever they see. They are closed to experiences outside of the superficial. Travelers, however, leave home at home, bringing only themselves and a desire to learn.”* ---Gary Langer, writer for *Transitions Abroad* magazine

### Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to various forms of travel writing and helps budding writers understand the process of gathering research on the road and turning their travel journals and memories into crafted works suitable for publication. You will read and analyze successful travel writing by contemporary and historic writers and engage in writing exercises designed to inspire passionate, original writing about your favorite sites and experiences in Bologna. Each class session involves discussion and writing exercises to encourage creativity in storytelling. We will workshop drafts of travel essays in class and all students will be expected to read the essays of other students in the class and offer constructive feedback on what is working well and what could use more development. You will end the class having written a high-quality travel article, with ideas for many more!

### Learning objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a strong understanding of the genre of travel writing and what constitutes great travel writing;
- Be able to choose compelling subjects and develop writing techniques that make your stories stand out;
- Incorporate photos or video into your stories in ways that add the most value
- Recognize what works well and what doesn't in peer writing and be able to articulate constructive feedback;
- Complete one travel essay (article) for future refinement and possible publication (top stories will be considered for publication in the JMS online magazine KAIROS.)

**Classes meet Mon. - Thurs. mornings** in two modules: Basic Italian (9:30-10:30) and Travel Writing (10:40-1:00).

After lunch, you'll put your morning studies into action: researching and reporting in teams, accompanied by your interpreters and sometimes by your professor (who will rotate among the teams). 2:30-6:30 daily.

Arrival weekend will be devoted to orientation, and to local excursions and visits within the city. Your second long weekend – Friday, Saturday and Sunday (June 22, 23, 24) – is free for travel within Italy.

### Class Meeting Site:

Classes meet at: **Coworking Nuntiabo** - Via Santo Stefano 57, Bologna <http://nuntiabo.vicem.it>

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From the dorm to class: Coworking Nuntiabo is about a 10-min. walk from your lodgings.

### Course website:

Login to **Canvas** with your Net ID at: <https://litt.rutgers.edu/canvas>

### Readings:

A reading package of award-winning travel stories and book excerpts is posted on the course website and listed on this syllabus. **BEFORE traveling to Italy, print out these stories** to facilitate closer reading and the ability to mark up the texts. Photocopying facilities in Bologna are limited. We will be discussing what makes these pieces effective. There is also a list of recommended readings and travel websites at the end of this syllabus to provide you with extra resources.

### Course Policies:

#### Attendance

You are expected to attend every class *on time* and in its entirety. (This applies to the writing classes, Italian classes and meetings with translators.) Failure to do so will result in serious grade reduction and repeated absences may lead to your being dropped from the course, receiving an automatic grade of F.

#### **Writing and Photo Assignments:**

Working in teams, you'll be assigned to do a story (article) of your choice, and will develop it under the guidance of faculty. You will also write four short essays (1 pg. single spaced each) that will be discussed and critiqued in class, along with the draft version of your final article. You will need to take evocative photos and/or videos to help tell your stories. Students may also propose their own story idea, pending approval by the professor.

Each story should include 1.) a reported and written piece of up to 1,500 words, which incorporates 4-6 interviews; 2.) three to six captioned photographs or a video of up to 3 minutes to help you tell your story; and 3.) social media posts and hyperlinks, where appropriate. 4.) All stories must be followed by source lists, and source contact details.

#### Deadlines:

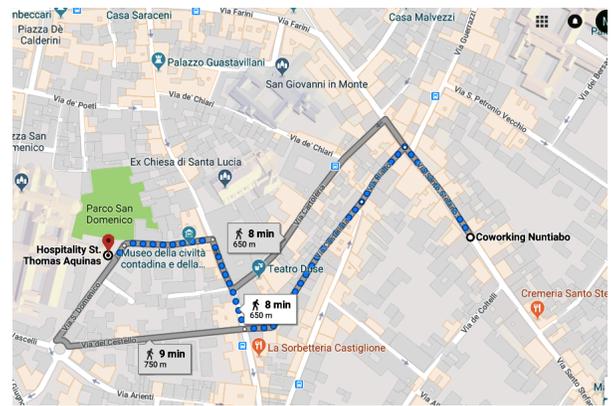
Missing deadline is a grave offense in journalism. Likewise, assignments for this class must be turned in by deadline or the grade will be lowered a half grade per day late.

#### How to submit assignments:

Post all completed assignments to the course website. To access the website, go to **Canvas** (<https://litt.rutgers.edu/canvas>) and login with your Net ID. The course name appears as: *04:567:452:01 Topics in Emerging Media II*. To resolve any problems with Canvas, please contact Canvas directly at: (877) 361-1134 (available 24/7/365) or email: [help@canvas.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@canvas.rutgers.edu); or Live Chat: [Canvas Help Desk Live Chat](#)

#### Writing Conventions:

In an email sent to Travel Writing students on 4/24/18, student were grouped into teams and assigned a story idea based on preferences they emailed Professor Marchi after the April 4th orientation. You were assigned to teams early to allow you to begin researching your story topic before arriving in Bologna, i.e. reading about your topic in scholarly journals available online via the RU Library, as well as reading published news and magazine articles or videos on your topic. You must incorporate at least **two** authoritative sources into your final article, particularly when discussing historical context and socio-political background. Interviews will be set up for you before you arrive in Bologna, allowing you to "hit the ground running."



- Articles (including drafts) must be typed, double-spaced and 12 pt. font w/ 1-inch margins all around. Your name and page number must appear on top of every page. Your essays must include a catchy title.

**\*\*\* Final article is due by July 12th (submit to course website drop box)**

### Constructive Criticism:

- You will also be graded on the effort and quality of the constructive feedback you give to your classmates.
- It's best to check your ego at the door the day your paper is workshopped. Strive to be open to what is said about your piece and to carefully evaluate the feedback's merit. *All* writing has room for improvement.
- Begin your critique of the work of others by first highlighting what you think *works well* in the piece. Your comments should be a balance of what is working and of what can be revised. Be specific in your feedback. For example, don't simply tell someone their work is "vague." Show them what this means in the context of his/her essay. Each comment you make should have a page reference to a specific place in the text and a suggestion for improvement. You should aim for roughly 3-4 thoughtful comments per essay. This is also a great opportunity for you to learn from the critiques done on your classmates' writing and to revise your own work accordingly. The danger inherent in all workshops is that a writer can feel so discouraged that he/she doesn't realize that the essay has merit but simply isn't there *yet*. Your responsibility as a reader is not only to devote adequate time to your comments, but also to ensure that your feedback is delivered in a way that helps the writer improve his/her writing. You are colleagues, so being dishonest because you are afraid of offending the writer is NOT helping him/her. The key is to offer honest feedback on both the positive and problematic aspects of the work. There will be no tolerance for comments that are sarcastic or mean-spirited.

### Grading

- A=** Excellent! The work is publishable with only minor changes.
- B+** = Well-written, with appropriate use of facts. The article may need additional material, but is free of factual errors and has no more than three grammar or punctuation errors.
- B** = Generally good work. Solid writing, but the lead needs work and the story may need more research and detail
- C+** = Acceptable. Awkward phrasing and numerous syntax, grammar or punctuation errors that distract from the article's strengths. More reporting may also be needed.
- C** = Average. Multiple organizational, writing and/or reporting problems. Contains factual errors or insufficient information. Many spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Unimaginative or trite content.
- D** = Poor work. Shows minimal or no effort.
- F**= Completely unacceptable.

### Grading Breakdown:

- Attendance and class participation/preparedness re: readings and class exercises/Facebook postings: **30%**
- Effort invested in giving (and graciously receiving) constructive feedback to classmates: **20%**
- Writing assignments while in Italy: **20%**
- Final story (due on July 12th): **30%**

### Academic Conduct

Disruptive classroom behavior (including arriving late and not completing assigned readings and exercises) or engaging in plagiarism will seriously jeopardize your standing in this class. Plagiarism, (the use of ideas, words, images, graphs, etc. other than your own, without appropriate attribution), can result in an automatic "F" and possibly further disciplinary action. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse. Make sure you understand how to properly attribute work for printed and online sources. See <https://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/citing-internet-sources> and <http://www.plagiarism.org/article/how-do-i-cite-sources>. You are responsible for reading and understanding the Rutgers policy on academic integrity located at: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

### \*\*\* Rules during our time in Bologna:

1. For liability reasons, you must stay within Italy during the dates of the course (June 14-28). Feel free to travel around Europe before or after the course ends.
2. No program participant may rent an automobile or drive an automobile. Only public transportation and commercial transportation services such as trains, buses, subways, taxis and car services may be used.
3. All program participants must keep their cell phones with them and charged at all times to ensure that they can reach the program leader and the program leader can reach them, if necessary.
4. Program participants should travel in the company of at least one other program participant, with larger groups encouraged at night. Each person will have a "buddy." We are all responsible for making sure that every person in our program *always* has someone to accompany him/her when they have to go somewhere or meet with someone for an interview; when going out at night; and when traveling on weekends.
5. All program participants are required to behave in a mature, professional and appropriate way at all times, never forgetting that they are representatives of Rutgers University and the United States of America while traveling with this program. Any program participant found to be engaging in disruptive, damaging, or illegal behavior of any kind, or who is arrested by local authorities for legal or behavioral violations, may be sent home immediately. This includes any use of illegal drugs and the excessive use of alcohol such that it causes disruption to our program, causes lateness or absences from class, or creates problems or disruptions for the participant's roommate or classmates.
6. **Note: Any student sent home for disciplinary reasons will automatically receive an "F" in the course.**

### Communications

All students must have a handheld communication device; must keep it on and charged; and must maintain an active calling and email plan, throughout the program. For professional and social communications, we'll create a group in WhatsApp, the most widely used form of mobile communication in Europe. Please download the app to your phone before leaving the United States. If you haven't already done so, please send me the phone number you'll use in Europe.

### Arrival in Bologna

Arriving students meet at Guglielmo Marconi Airport in Bologna on JUNE 14 around 9:15 am. After you exit customs, proceed to Caffé Piazza Maggiore on the ground floor of the airport arrivals building (Professor Marchi will be waiting for you at the Caffé.) She will email you her Italian cell phone number on June 12 so that you can call, text or whatsapp her, if needed.

### **Schedule of Readings/Activities:**

*Before the first class, read* "On Travelling Places," pp. 29-58 in *The Art of Travel* (2002) by Alain de Botton and "Culture shock overseas" pp. 132-139 of *Vagabonding* (R. Potts, 2016). We will discuss these pieces in the first class.

Also, view a 19-min. documentary on Bologna's system of worker-owned Cooperative businesses, available at:

[www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/eres/sum18/marchir\\_04\\_567\\_452\\_01\\_template.html](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/eres/sum18/marchir_04_567_452_01_template.html)

**DAY 1 - Thurs. June 14** Arrive in Bologna, unpack, rest. Lunch on your own.

4:00 pm afternoon walking tour of the historical section of the city for students arriving today. Free day for other students.

5:30 pm Food Tour at 5:30 w/ Italian food authors Silvia Donati and Micol Mazzeo. (Meet in front of Neptune Fountain.)

**DAY 2 - Fri. June 15** 10:00 meet at Nuntiabo for class activity. Lunch on your own.

**2:00-5:00 group field trip** to University of Bologna's Anatomical Museum (Palazzo Poggi), one of the first medical schools in the world. If we have time, we will also visit the Anatomical Theater, where medical students from the 1500s until the mid-1900s learned about surgery by watching operations and dissections.

6:30 pm **Group Welcome Dinner to kick off Session II** at the renowned Bologna restaurant *Osteria Braccaindosso*.

**Tonight Read:** *Lonely Planet* selections: "Travel Writing Then and Now" pp. 11-14; "What it Takes to be a Travel Writer" pp. 21-29 and "Tools of the Trade" pp. 187-193

**DAY 3 - Sat. June 16** - All-day group outing to the lovely historic town of Parma (home of Parmesan cheese, Parma ham, Italy's foremost marionette museum and the largest hedge maze in the world!). Read about Parma at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/07/21/travel/what-to-do-36-hours-parma-italy.html>

**DAY 4 - Sun. June 17** - All-day group outing to Apennine Festival, visiting ancient villages in the Apennine Mountains

**DAY 5 - Mon. June 18** Introduction to class. Overview. Discuss assigned readings (*Lonely Planet* and de Botton)

Review and discuss elements of good travel writing, including an enticing opening sentence that hooks readers

Discuss the development of good interview questions and brainstorm questions for your interviews

1st Assignment: Describe an insight you had while traveling (thoughtful or humorous) 1 page single-spaced due Tues.

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Monday Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 Go with translators to begin work on your story ideas

**Tonight Read:** de Botton "On Possessing Beauty" pp. 213 to 216 and pp. 227-233 about "word painting" (*All in 1 PDF file*)

**DAY 6 - Tues. June 19**

Discuss Alain de Botton "On Possessing Beauty" pp. 213 to bottom of 216 and pp. 227-233

Review Types of Travel Writing: "12 types of travel writing": <https://blog.reedsy.com/types-of-travel-writing/>

Discuss how first day of working with translators went. Group review of prior day's writing assignment.

2nd Assignment, Describe a place that had a particularly strong impact on you (1 p. single spaced, due Wed)

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Tuesday Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 continue working on your story research and interviews with translators

**Optional group activity tonight:** classical music concert at Bologna's beautiful Teatro Comunale (Rossini/Verdi opera) <https://culturalitaly.com/teatro-comunale-di-bologna> (To get the student price, you must purchase your tickets individually showing your student ID.) **Save the receipt and Prof. Marchi will reimburse you for the ticket.**

**Tonight Read:** Joseph Caldwell "The Uncle From Rome" (1992) p. 33-45; Ernest Hemingway, "On Writing in the first person," pp. 181-182 in *A Moveable Feast* (1964)

**DAY 7 - Wed. June 20th**

Discuss Joseph Caldwell "The Uncle From Rome" and Ernest Hemingway "On Writing in the first person"

Review and discuss: Breaking into Travel Journalism: Advice from the Experts: <https://www.theguardian.com/careers/breaking-into-travel-journalism>

Read aloud/discuss examples of 2nd assignment for group feedback

3rd Assignment: Describe an interaction or incident you experienced in Bologna (1 page, single spaced due Thurs.)

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Wed. Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 continue working on your story interviews and research with translators

**Tonight Read:** Mary Morris "On Italian Time" (pp. 216-219) & *Lonely Planet* The Art & Craft of Travel Writing pp. 65-78

**DAY 8 - Thurs. June 21**

Discuss Mary Morris "On Italian Time" (p. 216-219) and *Lonely Planet* The Art & Craft of Travel Writing pp. 65-78

4th Assignment: Write a "How to" piece on how to do something here in Bologna (1 p. single spaced due Friday)

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Thursday Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 continue working on your story research with translators

**Tonight Read:** P. Hoffman "The Art of Arrangement in Italy" p. 143-152 and *Lonely Planet* "Getting Published" pp. 133-153

**DAY 9 - Fri. June 22** Free Day to travel in Italy or explore Bologna and surrounding towns (Ravenna, Ferrara, Venice, Treviso, Padua, Florence, etc.)

**DAY 10 - Sat. June 23** Free day to travel in Italy or explore Bologna and surrounding towns

**DAY 11 - Sun. June 24** Free day to travel in Italy or explore Bologna and surrounding towns

**DAY 12 Mon. June 25** Discuss Hoffman and *Lonely Planet* readings. Begin workshopping final story drafts.

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Monday Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 continue working on your interviews and research with translators

**Tonight Read:** *Lonely Planet* essay on "Dealing with Rejection" pp. 159-160

**DAY 13 Tues. June 26** Discuss *Lonely Planet* reading and workshop draft essays

Lunch on your own: 1:00-2:30 pm

Afternoon: 2:30-6:30 continue working on your interviews and research with translators

**Tonight Read:** Charles Dickens (1846) "Genoa and its Neighborhood" pp. 69-77.

**DAY 14 Wed. June 27** Last day of class.

Discuss prior night's reading. Workshop draft essays. Wrap-Up. Closing thoughts. Pack.

**6:30 pm Group Farewell Dinner** (Lab 16, on Via Zamboni, 16/D)

**DAY 15 Thurs. June 28** Return to the US or continue traveling on your own

For those flying home: **Gather at 7:00 am in front of the dorm to be picked up by taxi**, paid for by the program (for the 9:45 a.m. group flight you must be at the airport by 7:45 a.m.)

Group return flight info: Air France 1229 Leaves Guglielmo Marconi airport in Bologna at 9:45 a.m. and arrives at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris at 11:30 a.m. Change planes, and depart on Air France flight #6 to New York at 1:35 p.m. Flight arrives in JFK at 4 p.m. You are responsible for your own transport home from JFK.

If you need to go to the airport at a different time, you can take a taxi to the airport at your own expense for about €20, or \$24. Sit in the back seat, and insist the cabbie use his or her meter. If you have trouble, ask an airport official to intervene when you arrive. If you are taking a train to other parts of Italy or Europe, bus #11 or #30 will take you from the dorm to the train station.

**\*\*\* Final version of your article is due by July 12th (submit to course website drop box)**

## Facebook Posting Schedule

Course FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Rutgers-Global-Journalism-in-Italy-178965615477142/>

### SCHEDULE FOR FACEBOOK POSTS IN BOLOGNA (Graded Assignment)

As part of the course requirements, students must write short Facebook posts about their experiences in Bologna. 3-4 students will post to the Global Journalism in Bologna FB page each day, according to the schedule below. Each student will do 4 posts during the Travel Writing session and posts must share something unique and interesting that you learned. All posts **must be shown to the professor first** for approval before being posted (to make sure that the spelling of towns, institutions, people's names, and factual information is correct). Each student has been assigned a number based on the alphabetical order of their last name (please see list below). Please do your posts on the dates corresponding to your number.

The following students will post on the course Facebook Page on these dates:

June 15 : Students 1, 2, 3  
 June 16: Students 4, 5, 6  
 June 17: Students 7, 8, 9  
 June 18: Students 10, 11, 12  
 June 19: Students 1, 2, 3  
 June 20: Students 4, 5, 6  
 June 21: Students 7, 8, 9  
 June 22: Students 10, 11, 12  
 June 23: Students 1, 2, 3  
 June 24: Students 4, 5, 6  
 June 25: Students 7, 8, 9  
 June 26: Students 10, 11, 12

June 27: All Students *Everyone* does one final post on closing thoughts, what you learned, what you will miss about Bologna!

### Student Names (Alphabetically) Below:

- (1) Erin Boisselle-Byers
- (2) Jade Chandler
- (3) Valentine Dromasco
- (4) Gavin Dushmukh
- (5) Kylie Feldman
- (6) Alex Harrison
- (7) Kira Herzog
- (8) Blake Lew-Merwin
- (9) Erica Limatola
- (10) Garrett Steffe
- (11) Edwin Vega
- (12) Olivia Whelan

### Bologna Travel Writing Story Ideas

Story about the University of Bologna (the oldest university in the Western world), student life, schedule, housing, finances, etc.)  
 Story on the anatomical theater, wax medical museum, Palazzo Poggi and history of medicine in Bologna  
 Story about the Italian Woman's Library in Bologna and/or gender activism in Bologna (including LGBT activism)  
 Story on worker-owned collectives in Bologna, their history and contemporary status  
 Story about the world's largest hedge maze in Parma (history of hedge mazes in Italy, why one was built in Parma)  
 Story on the history of the Towers of Bologna (visit them, interview people, do historic research, their role today)  
 Story about Aperitivo time in Bologna (history of this tradition and description of this experience)  
 Off the Beaten Track Bologna (i.e. St. Catherine Mummy, the remaining canals; Roman city ruins under the library, etc.)  
 Story about a family-run business that has been there for over 100 years (like cobbler shop, hat shop, etc.)  
 Story on Bologna's Zoology Museum - one of the first museums of natural history in the world  
 Story on the Madonna di San Luca, role of religious pilgrimages, etc.  
 Story on the Toy Soldier Museum in Bologna  
 Student activism in Bologna (focusing on a specific, current political issue)

## TRAVEL WRITING STORY GROUPS for final projects (based on your feedback to Prof. Marchi in April)

Story on the tradition of Aperitivo [in which you can discuss Bologna food specialties]: **Kylie and Olivia W.**

Story on past and present LGBT activism in Bologna: **Gavin, Erin and Erica**

Story on the history of the towers in Bologna: **Garrett, Jade, Valentine**

Story on the history & present realities of worker-run collectives (businesses) in Bologna: **Edwin and Alex**

Story on **student** life in Bologna/history of the university etc: **Kira and Blake**

### Additional Suggested Reading and Helpful Websites:

Greenman, J. *Introduction to Travel Journalism: On the Road with Serious Intent* (2012). [www.travel-journalism.com](http://www.travel-journalism.com)

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2012/11/19/joan-didion-on-keeping-a-notebook/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2006/04/24/the-lonely-planet-guide-to-my-apartment>

Tips for Travel Writing from the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2011/sep/23/travel-writing-tips-expert-advice>

Breaking into Travel Journalism: Advice from the experts:

<https://www.theguardian.com/careers/breaking-into-travel-journalism>

12 types of travel writing: <https://blog.reedsy.com/types-of-travel-writing/>

How NOT to be a travel writer: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/blog/2011/05/17/10-ways-not-to-be-a-travel-writer/>

pp. 24-25 of *Vagabonding* (Potts: 2016) "Tips on working abroad" (writing jobs and other gigs)

pp. 185-189 of *Vagabonding* on "Volunteering Overseas" and a list of "Travel Writing Anthologies"