

E379S Travel Literature **Spring 2010 #35185/T-TH 9:30-10:45/PAR 210**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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English | Rhetoric and Writing

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DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course will be on the reinvention of travel literature as an active and diverse genre. At a time when tourism has triumphed over travel and when you can surf the Web while drinking a Coke throughout much of the world, the possibilities of travel have been rediscovered by some of the best writers living today.

We will begin the course by examining the urge to travel and what we learn from traveling, starting with Robyn Davidson's solo odyssey across the Australian desert with four camels and a dog. Then we'll read Dervla Murphy's tale of a bicycle trip from Ireland to India, Redmond O'Hanlon's trek through the jungles of the Congo, Jon Krakauer's account of disaster on Mt. Everest, and Sara Macdonald's wanderings in India.

You will keep a reading journal, which you will share with the class. You'll also write a travel essay, an essay on a travel book, and a seminar paper organized around a central issue or question raised in three travel books.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robyn Davidson. *Tracks*. Vintage, 1995. ISBN 0-679-76287-6

Dervla Murphy. *Full Tilt*. Overlook, 1987. ISBN: 0-87951-248-2

Redmond O'Hanlon. *No Mercy*. Vintage, 1996. ISBN 0-679-73732-4

Jon Krakauer. *Into Thin Air*. Anchor, 1998. ISBN: 0-385-492089

Sarah Macdonald. *Holy Cow*. Broadway, 2003. ISBN 0-7679-1574-7

Faigley. *The Little Penguin Handbook*. 2nd edition with MLA update. Longman, 2009. ISBN: 0-205-74339-0

GRADING

Please note that there will be penalties for late work. Reading journal entries must be presented on the day scheduled to receive full credit of 3 points each for the first 11 entries. (The final entry is worth 2 points.) Entries completed but not read on the day scheduled receive 1 point.

GRADING

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For projects the late penalty is 4 points for each calendar day. **The late penalty applies to both drafts and final versions.**

Points possible

Reading journal	35
Travel book map	5
Travel essay	20
Term project	40
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Point equivalents for final grades	100

100-93 = A

92-90 = A-

89-87 = B+

86-83 = B

82-80 = B-

79-77 = C+

76-73 = C

72-70 = C-

69-67 = D+

66-63 = D

62-60 = D-

59-0 = F

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Participation is ESSENTIAL. You expect me to report for work-and on time. I expect the same of you. Coming in late is disruptive. So be punctual. Six absences results in failure of the course.

HONESTY

All work in this course must be your own creation, including photographs. If you wish to incorporate someone else's ideas or images, you must acknowledge your source. If you have questions about the use of source materials, see me before turning in the assignment. Plagiarism is a serious offense in college and can result in failure for the course and possibly expulsion.

E379S Syllabus

January 19

Introduction

View *Walkabout* in class

January 21

View *Walkabout* and *Last Wave* in class

January 26

Group T response 1

Read *Tracks* 19-115

January 28

Group TH response 1

Read *Tracks* 19-115

February 2

Group T response 2

Read *Tracks* 119-254

February 4

Group TH response 2

Read *Tracks* 119-254

February 9

Group T response 3

Read *Full Tilt* 1-112

[maps of Iran](#)

[Shah of Iran](#)

[destruction of Bamiyan Buddhas](#)

[ethnolinguistic groups in Afghanistan](#)

[hunt for Bin Laden](#)

February 11

Group TH response 3

Read *Full Tilt* 1-112

Introduction to GoogleMaps

February 16

Group T response 4

Read *Full Tilt* 113–229

Travel Book Map due

[Pakistan ethnic groups](#)

February 18

Group TH response 4

Read *Full Tilt* 113–229

Travel Book Map due

February 23

Group T response 5

Read *No Mercy* 2–

February 25

Group TH response 5

Read *No Mercy* 2–

Travel Essay due

March 2

Group T response 6

Read *No Mercy* 2–

Submit your Reading Journal

Term Project proposal due

March 4

Group TH response 6

Read *No Mercy* 2–

Submit your Reading Journal

March 9

View *Everest* in class

Collect your journal from professor

SPRING BREAK!!!

March 23

Group T response 7

Read *Into Thin Air* 7-147

8000-meter peaks

Ed Viesturs

Seven summits

Samantha Larson

Adventure Consultants

Mountain Madness

March 25

Group TH response 7

Read *Into Thin Air* 7-147

March 30

Group T response 8

Read *Into Thin Air* 149-301

What Really Happened in the Thin Air

Makalu Ming-Ho Gau

Ten years later

Sandy Hill

April 1

Group TH response 8

Read *Into Thin Air* 149-301

April 6

Work on project

April 8

Term Project draft due

Workshop on Term Project

April 20

Group T response 10

Read *Holy Cow* 98–209

April 22

Group TH response 10

Read *Holy Cow* 98–209

April 27

Group T response 11

Read *Holy Cow* 210–291

[Sara MacDonald post India](#)

April 29

Group TH response 11

Read *Holy Cow* 210–291

Final vers of Term Project due

May 4

Groups T and TH response 12

Final thoughts on travel and travel writing

Course–instructor survey

Submit your Reading Journal