WRIT 3270: WRITING THE SOUTH OF FRANCE
Course Syllabus

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: WRIT3270
Number of Credits: 3-4
Language of Instruction: English
Contact Hours: 45
Instructor: Sarah Chandler, MFA

Course Description

Writing the South of France is a travel writing course that dissolves the boundaries of traditional travel writing, inviting students to explore traditional and emerging genres—literature, art, film, reportage, podcasts, blogs, advertising and social media—to examine how one of Europe’s most celebrated regions is represented in the popular imagination. Who has created the enchanting fantasy of the South of France, and how has it been packaged and marketed to the world? As our globalized age brings an unprecedented number of tourists, what are the ethical challenges for those who create stories and “content” about this complex region? Among these competing narratives, whose stories might be left out, and how does storytelling impact the local ecology, economy, and culture? By keeping a daily travel journal, writing a series of blog posts, and collaborating on a multimodal place-based project, students will hone their narrative voices while gaining the skills necessary to confidently write about travel, landscape and culture.

Course Objectives

• A focus on experiential learning, including site visits and field trips, will allow students to gain insight into France’s rich cultural and ecological heritage.
• Students will practice critical thinking, research, speaking and writing skills through analyzing, composing and presenting multimodal texts.
• By examining how the region is portrayed through online media, students will enhance their rhetorical awareness and digital literacy.
• Through peer writing workshops and project-based work, students will experience collaboration and community building.
• Guest lectures will afford students the chance to learn how local writers, cultural and civic figures create and communicate narratives about the region.
• By connecting with professionals in the media, cultural and tourism sectors, students will gain career awareness.
Methodology

• Interactive lectures and discussions of course texts and site visits will furnish cultural and historical context on the region.
• Students will complete daily journal entries and weekly site visit reflections.
• Guest lectures, field trips and site visits will allow students to engage with professionals working to protect the area’s rich cultural and ecological heritage.
• By writing place-based narratives in the form of blog posts and other digital stories, students will learn how a living place is represented in the digital world.
• Peer writing workshops will build collaborative skills and foster a sense of community.
• As a final project, students will collaborate on a public-facing multimodal narrative (a podcast, blog or social media campaign) about a local business or cultural site, along with a reflection on narrative style, rhetorical strategies and ethical considerations.

Required Reading/ Materials


Supplemental Materials


Knox, Katelyn. *Race on Display in 20th and 21st century France*. Liverpool University Press, 2018


*Post-Migratory Cultures in Postcolonial France*. Liverpool University Press, 2018

