TRAVEL WRITING

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YOU’LL NEED

-A writer’s notebook (hard cover, unlined, available at bookstores and art supply stores)
-The Best American Travel Writing 2005, edited by Jamaica Kincaid
-Chasing the Dragon into the Heart of the Golden Triangle by Christopher Cox
-The Sheltering Sky by Paul Bowles
-Shutterbabe by Deborah Copagen Kogan
*All texts available in the special order section of the Pearl Street Bookstore on the west end of the Pearl Street Mall

WRITING

-You will be creating several different types of pieces in this class.
-Approximately every third week, I will give you a writing assignment that you will hand in.
-Unless I specify otherwise, everything you hand in should be typed, double-spaced, approximately five pages.
-If you are having trouble making five pages, spin off into another related topic in an accompanying piece.
-You will revise these pieces and perhaps add some of them to your final portfolio.

WORKSHOPS

Because I think it is important for everyone to give and have plenty of feedback, we will have several workshops. Some will be during class time and others will be held outside of class in my office. I will divide you into groups and you will exchange pieces with your group members. For the workshop, you will come with written comments on the essays of all your group members and we will discuss the pieces one at a time. We’ll talk about different ways to give feedback.

READING RESPONSES

In your journal and sometimes to be handed in, you will write a reaction/imitation/homage to every assigned reading. Imitate the style of the author, write about a similar topic, or do whatever the piece inspires you to do. Also, if it’s not obvious, you must explain how your work relates to the assigned reading. Many times over the course of the semester, you will all read these aloud.
WRITER’S NOTEBOOK
Your notebook will become a record of your thoughts, a place to record close readings of the world, and a sourcebook for essays. I encourage you to carry your notebook with you as much as possible. I will frequently ask you to do writing exercises in your writer’s notebook and to read sections of your choice aloud from it. I won’t collect your notebooks, though. I would not want anyone to read mine, so I feel strongly about not reading yours.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
It is very important for everyone to speak in class. If you are shy or just quiet, I urge you to push yourself. Usually, the more you speak up, the more comfortable you become doing so. Be careful not to monopolize the discussion, though. A balanced approach is best. Also, I encourage you to speak to each other rather than directing everything to the “teacher.”

CONFERENCES
At least once during the semester, I will meet with each of you to discuss your work.

ATTENDANCE AND PREPAREDNESS
-It is important to be in class during every session. If you are absent more than twice, your grade will drop a letter with each additional absence.
-If you are not in class, it is your responsibility to get the phone number or e-mail address of one of your classmates so you may contact him or her about missed work.
-I generally do not accept late or incomplete work.
-You will be penalized for chronic lateness; try to be here on time.
-I will not accept multiple page assignments that are not stapled or fastened with a paper clip. Buy a box of paper clips or carry a stapler in your backpack.

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is defined as the use of another’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. If you hand in a piece of work that contains plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade for that assignment and perhaps even the course. Also, I will not accept papers that you have written for other courses.

GRADES
I will not grade individual assignments. This is a process course. I urge you to experiment; try new things; learn from “failures” as well as “successes.” I believe that an obsession with grades can undermine good writing because it often inhibits the desire to take risks. I also understand that grades are important to you. If you are getting less than a
B-, I will let you know. If you are ever concerned about your grade, please come talk with me.
Your final grade will consist of:
50% final portfolio
30% writing assignments (drafts of essays and reading responses)
20% quality of your presence in class

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).