

New Zealand Stories: Travel and Storytelling (CAT 125):

In this public rhetoric and practical communication course, we will use media narratives from stand-up to journalism, documentary, and TV episodes to explore how we tell stories about travel, using our experiences in Auckland as the fodder for much of our writing. From walking on a volcano to visiting museums, and wandering the city of Auckland, this class will interrogate how our notions of travel are shaped by privilege, experience, and histories of a place, such as Wellington. We will read texts ranging from Zygmunt Bauman's *Globalization* to Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, and essays from Viet Than Nguyen's collection by refugees, *The Displaced*. The narratives we engage will situate personal stories, research, and expertise within the broader histories and geopolitics of New Zealand. This will be an experiential, discussion, and workshop driven course, where wandering in and around Auckland becomes fodder for our writing and reflection. In this course, they will use reflective strategies to inform your rhetorical practices of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Our final project will be a public facing magazine (online), where each student researches and writes a longform journalism piece, centered on New Zealand and those themes we have discussed in class.

Course Goals:

- Develop increased experience and proficiency in public presentation, documentation, and curation.
- Direct written, spoken, or digital compositions to multiple audiences.
- Examine their own authority as writers and understand how different genres and citation conventions are appropriate for establishing credibility in different contexts.

Assignments:

- **Long-form magazine article (Proposal, Draft, and Final Draft) -- 40%**
 - This assignment will span the fives of the course, taking students through a proposal, research, and drafting process. Students will choose topics that they are interested that are about New Zealand and/or travel and will draw from their personal experience. This final product will be a public-facing long-form article, published as part of a class magazine.
- **Public Speaking Assignment --10%**
 - becomes part of the article
- **Participation -- 30%**
 - Students will be graded on how they participate in class (whether they are prepared, attentive, and engaged in the course discussions). Students will also bring daily discussion questions based on the reading and screenings.
- **Excursion Reflections (3) -- 20%**
 - Each week students will write short response papers that synthesize the week's readings with our excursions. (Word count 500-700 words)

Course Calendar:

Week 1: New Zealand, Introductions

Monday: Introductions & Overview of NZ History

Tuesday: Travel Narratives

Potential Texts: *Gulliver's Travels* (excerpts) & *Lord of the Rings* (film) & "[Female Travel Writing](#)"

Recommended: Jennifer Hope Choi, "[My Mother and I went Halfway Around the World to Find Each Other](#)"

Wednesday: Colonialism & NZ Travel

Read: TBD

Thursday: Excursion (See Course #2 for Excursion List)

Week 2: What do we mean by travel?

Monday: Tourism vs. Migration (& Different Kinds of Travel)

Read: Zygmunt Bauman, *Globalization* (excerpt)

Excursion Reflection #1 Due

Tuesday: Migration/Seeking Refuge

Read: Marina Lewycka, "Refugees and Exiles" from *The Displaced* and Hilton Als, "[Borrowed Culture: V. S. Naipaul out-Englises the English](#)"

Wednesday: Climate Refugees

Read: "[Climate Refugees Cannot be Sent Home](#)" and "[Rethinking Asylum on a Warming Planet](#)"

Thursday: Excursion

Week 3: New Zealand Travel & Cultural Tourism

Monday: Read: Excerpts from [Lonely Planet New Zealand](#) & "[6 Ways to Experience Māori Culture](#)" & [Histories of New Zealand Travel](#)

Excursion Reflection #2 Due

Tuesday: Look at [Tourism Pamphlet from 1890](#) & [graph of tourism rates](#)

Wednesday: Māori & Tourism

Read: Maria Amoamo, Anna Thompson, "[\(re\)Imaging Māori tourism: Representation and cultural identity through narrative](#)"

Thursday: Weekend Excursion

Week 4: Eco-Tourism: Landscapes, Wilderness, & Travel

Monday: What is Environmental Tourism?

Due: Excursion Reflection

Tuesday: Environmental Tourism & NZ

Read: TBD

Wednesday: Satirizing Wilderness Narratives

Watch: *The Hunt for the Wilderpeople*

Thursday: Excursion

Proposal for Final Project Due

Week 5: Final Project & Presentations:

Monday: Read: “[Travel Writing Tips & Advice](#)”

Workshop Day (Rough Drafts Due)

Tuesday: Final Essay Due + Presentations

Wednesday: Final Essay Due + Presentations

Thursday: Final Excursion