London Stories: Travel, Migration, 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 London as the fodder for much of our writing. This class would interrogate how our notions of travel are shaped by privilege, experience, and histories of a place, such as London. We would 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 England broadly and London specifically—and will engage the contemporary moment of Brexit. This will be a discussion and workshop driven course, driving towards helping you think through your future plans from graduation to life after college, from graduate school to getting a job you want/like. In this course, you 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 and potentially print), where each student researches and writes a longform journalism piece, centered on London 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) -- 30%**
  - 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 London 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.
- **Two Interviews (& Write-up) -- 20%**
  - 1 becomes part of the article
  - 1 informational interview for professional development
- **Participation -- 15%** 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 (4) -- 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: London, Introductions
Monday: Introductions & History of Travel Narratives
Tuesday: Travel Narratives in Past British Pop Culture
 Potential Texts: Gulliver's Travels (excerpts); Utopia (excerpts)
Wednesday: Colonialism & Travel
 Read: TBD
Thursday: Excursion

Week 2: What do we mean by travel?
Monday: Tourism vs. Migration (& Different Kinds of Travel)
 Read: Zygmunt Bauman, Globalization (excerpt)
 Reflection #1 Due
Tuesday: Tourism & Privilege
 Read: TBD
Wednesday: Migration/Seeking Refuge
 Read: Marina Lewycka, “Refugees and Exiles” from The Displaced and
 a Hilton Als, “Borrowed Culture: V. S. Naipaul out-Englishes the English”
Thursday: Excursion

Week 3: Adventure vs Self-Discovery: Gender & Travel
Monday: “Female Travel Writing”
 Reflection #2 Due
Tuesday: Readings: Jennifer Hope Choi, “My Mother and I went Halfway Around the World to
 Find Each Other” & TBD
Wednesday: Presentations
Thursday: Excursion--Cotswalds & Stonehenge

Week 4: Tastes of London: Food, Drink, and Travel
Monday: Guest Lecture: Food, Travel, & Colonial Tastes
Tuesday: Tea & Beer
 Read: TBD
Wednesday: Media & Exporting British Baking
 Watch: Great British Bake-off/Baking Show (Ep. TBD)
Thursday: Weekend Excursion
 Proposal for Final Project Due

Week 5: Final Project & Presentations:
Monday: Read: “Travel Writing Tips & Advice”
 Workshop Day
Tuesday: Presentations
 Wednesday: Presentations
 Thursday: Final Excursion