

Veranstalter.....	Aaron Gowen
Thema.....	General course description: Advanced Writing: Travel Writing (AA-V5, ENG-14)
Art der Veranstaltung.....	obligatorische Sprachlehrveranstaltung
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-621
Zeit.....	Blockkurs verteilt auf sieben Termine: 1) Freitag 15. April, 14.15 - 17.45 2) Samstag 16. April, 10.15 - 13.45 3) Freitag 29. April, 14.15 - 17.45 4) Samstag 30. April, 10.15 - 13.45 5) Freitag 20. Mai 14.15 - 17.45 6) Samstag 21. Mai 10.15 - 13.45 7) Samstag 28. Mai 10.15 - 13.45
Raum.....	folgt
Beginn.....	15. April

Description:

Travel writing serves at least the three following practical purposes, written in order of importance: 1) being a source of entertainment, 2) reporting information about a location, and 3) acting as a stepping-stone for the writer to articulate her thoughts, opinions, or feelings. This course is conducted under the working thesis that all of those practical purposes abet what is the most elemental quality of travel writing: that the travel narrative is a metaphor for the inner experience of the narrator, whose thoughts, impressions, opinions are shaken up by being put in a liminal state, being in the threshold between an old point of view and a new one. That is not to say that travel writing must be stodgy, philosophical, or serious. It can be and often is quite funny. But even when the text is funny, it is funny *because the narrator's impressions of something new* are humorous. The students in this course will learn to write about travel experiences: with the goal of bringing their writing to a level worth publishing, they will compose one travel narrative and one critical essay, in the process improving their descriptive and narrative techniques. Furthermore, they will familiarize themselves with the process of query writing and searching for the appropriate venue for publication. Sentence structure, clause/phrase variety, and apposition are among the grammatical forms we will be trying to put to use. Emphasis also will be given to avoiding cultural sententiousness, with particular concentration on racial and gender concerns. In addition, we'll read many classic and contemporary travel tales by authors ranging from Montaigne and Mark Twain to David Sedaris and David Foster Wallace.