

Capstone Proposal

Working Title: Translating a French Semester Abroad into Creative Nonfiction

Student name and NKU email address _____

Signature

Date

Capstone Director Name and NKU email address _____

Capstone Director Signature

Approval Date

Honors Program Director, Dr. Ernest Smith, Ph.D.

smithe11@nku.edu

Honors Program Director Signature

Approval Date

Course(s) for which students will be enrolling and number of credit hours:

Semester I _____

Semester II _____

Background: I was first introduced to the genre of travel writing when I enrolled in the Honors course, “The Written World” (Spring 2008). After reading travel literature and creating several travel pieces of my own and travelling to Coatepec, Mexico in an optional class trip, I knew that I would like to expand on what I learned from this class and do more creative writing in the future. Writing about the Coatepec experience became the foundation of my NCHC presentation in October, 2008. These experiences,

reading, writing and travelling, provide the foundation for this project. When my study abroad semester in France was confirmed, I decided to build on that foundation and continue developing and experimenting with creative nonfiction. My capstone project is the creation of a piece of creative nonfiction that reflects on my semester abroad in France. The form of this creative non-fiction will be determined within the first month of my research, writing, and reflection.

Project Objectives:

- to develop a better understanding of the travel writing genre by exploring critical, academic, popular texts and television programming examining the structure and content of this genre and sub-genres.
 - By developing this deeper understanding, I can succeed in writing a travel writing piece that is both complete and original, as well as developing a life-long commitment to recording my travel experiences for personal and/or professional use.
- to have a complete work of creative nonfiction that shares my semester abroad in a narrative style that is appropriate for a general audience.
 - I will achieve this by using the journal written during my study abroad experience as well as by using resources from past classes (The Written World, Caribbean Prism) to aide my writing. In addition to these academic resources, I will draw from other resources such as travel sections of newspapers and popular travel shows to explore how one communicates travel with written words

and visual images. (See working bibliography.)

- to further investigate the ways I, as a global citizen, can communicate the importance of travel.
 - This will reflect NKU's mission to help each student develop as a citizen of the world.
- to foster an interest in travel writing in the NKU's Education Abroad community so that in the future, others will be inspired to share their travel experiences.
 - As a student who has travelled and studied internationally, I am often asked by the NKU Education Abroad office to share my experiences with others as a way of encouraging my peers to study abroad. Researching, writing, and presenting my capstone will allow me to develop my communication skills in the most professional manner possible.

Time Line: My director and I plan on meeting three times a month to review my progress and to receive feedback. We developed a plan for the next two semesters which will allow for significant research, writing, revision, and presentation preparation.

Semester I

August-September

- Reviewing and reading resources listed in my working bibliography and The Written World notes.
- Brainstorming my thoughts, ideas, and writing while I am revisiting journal entries from my semester abroad.

- For each meeting I will provide my director with copies of my journal with handwritten or typed notes that I make on the journal entry so my director can see the progress and direction of my creative process.
- Following each meeting, director will respond with her written comments and suggestions within a week of our meeting date.

September- October

- Begin drafting and organizing my ideas using the materials I have produced in the first month and continue to review and research of my resources.
- Determine appropriate style/format for non-fiction narrative
- Provide my director with typed copies of my drafts for each of our meetings so she can see the continued progression of the creative process.
- Director will respond with her written comments and suggestions within a week of our meeting date.
- Midterm evaluation of project due—to be discussed with director.

October- November- December

- Complete a rough draft
- Director will respond with her written comments and suggestions after she has completed reading the draft.
- Review drafts with director

Second Semester

My timeline for spring 2010 is less developed (see below). I will provide a progress

report to my director and the Honors Program during the first week of spring semester 2010 that outlines my plan for completing the written component of my capstone, as well as my plans for presentation at the Spring Conference of Honors.

January

- Start the revision and rewriting process based on director's comments from her review of my rough draft.

February

- Continue to revise the project.
- Discuss with director my ideas for the presentation and start its planning.

March

- Submit the final written version to my director.
- Continue to develop and begin practicing my presentation.

April

- Finalize presentation and practice presentation.

End of April

- Submit my capstone project to the Honor's Program for archiving.

Grading: The general grading of my capstone will be based in part on the following criteria:

- Come to scheduled meetings well prepared and with completed assignments
- Meeting goals and objectives as outlined in the proposal

- Work displays significant effort and reflection
- Work shows consistent and constant improvement
- I make appropriate and significant progress based on my timeline

Working Bibliography

- Bourdain, Anthony. *No Reservations*. Travel Channel. Weekly episodes.
- Bryson, Bill. *A Walk in the Woods*. Harper Collins, 1998.
- Cahill, Tim. *The Best American Travel Writing 2006*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.
- Child, Julia. *A Year in France*. New York: Anchor, 2006.
- Diedrich, Joseph. "The Gift". *The Gift of Travel: The Best of Travelers Tales*. San Francisco: Travelers' Tales Inc, 1998.
- George, Don. *Travel Writing*. Lonely Planet: Oakland, 2005.
- Holland, Patrick, and Graham Huggan. *Tourists with Typewriters: Critical Reflections on Contemporary Travel Writing*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1998.
- Mayle, Peter. *A Year in Provence*. New York: Vintage Departures, 1989.
- Miller, Brenda, and Susan Paola. *Tell it Slant: Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction*. McGraw, 2004.
- O' Hanlon, Redmond. *Into the Heart of Borneo*. New York: Vintage Departures, 1984.
- O' Niel, L. Peat. *Travel Writing*. Ed 2. Writer's Digest, 2000.
- Shapiro, Michael. *A Sense of Place*. San Francisco: Travelers' Tales, 2004.
- Steves, Rick. *Travel as a Political Act*. New York: Nation Books, 2009.
- Swick, Thomas. *A Way to See the World: From Texas to Transylvania with a Maverick Traveler*. Guilford: Lyon Press, 2003.
- Travel Section. *New York Times, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle*.