**ENGLISH 337: Travel Writing In The Sahel - 2 credits – WINTER 2023**

Christopher Wise, Professor

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Office: HUM 251

Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisites & Notes: ENG 101 or equivalent.

Credits: 2

Grade Mode: Letter

GUR Attributes: ACGM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will discuss travel writing in the Sahel with special emphasis on the “Timbuktu Narrative.”

**Course Texts**

Each student will read one assigned text written by travels in West Africa. Authors studied will include Mungo Park, René Caillié, Felix Dubois, Jean Rouch, Paul Stoller, and other.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Communicate one’s travel experiences using recognized conventions, including written narrative and film.
2. Understand and read texts critically in relation to the discourses and cultures of West Africa with special emphasis on the Senegalese context.

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

Prior to travel in Senegal, students will present an oral report and write a summary the travel writer they have been assigned (700 to 1000 words). At the conclusion of their travels, they will create a project documenting some aspect of their travel experiences, which will also be shared with their peers. Students may write a narrative (1000 – 1500 words), or they may create an edited film documentary (15-20 minutes). Projects will be conducted in consultation with the instructor. In addition to doing the course reading in a timely fashion, students will visit historical and cultural sites as well as attend guest lectures and/or gatherings on topics relevant to the course themes.

*Plagiarism*

Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of this course. The instructor will follow standard procedures as outline in WWU’s catalogue in responding to plagiarism.

*Attendance*

* Attendance is mandatory for this course. Two absences are allowed without affecting your grade. Each absence thereafter will lower your FINAL grade by 1/3 (So a “B” would become a “B-” for example.) It is your responsibility to ask for materials and information covered in your absence.
* Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities can be arranged through Disability Resources for Students at Old Main 110 or by email at [drs@wwu.edu](mailto:drs@wwu.edu). Please bring documentation to me within the *first week* of class so we can work together from the start.

*Mobile Phones/ Laptops*

* All cell phones should be turned off when you enter the classroom.

**GRADING** **&** **ASSIGNMENTS**

Oral Report [25%]

Written Summary of Travel Narrative [25%]

Personal Travel Narrative or Film Documentary [50%]

**Class Schedule**

[Note: Due to non-standard nature of class meetings, the class schedule for all three sections taught will be the same.  However, readings and assignments for different sections are indicated according to course number, i.e 335, 333, 408, 350]

WWU ON-CAMPUS (Before Senegal):

Thursday, 1/5: (1 hours) 3:30 – 4:30: History African Travel Writing: Receive Assigned Texts.

Tuesday, 1/10: (1 hours) 3:30 – 4:30: History African Travel Writing

Thursday, 1/12: (1 hours) 3:30 – 4:30: History African Travel Writing

Tuesday 1/17: (1 hours) 3:30 – 4:30: History African Travel Writing

Thursday 1/19: (4 hours) 12:00 – 4:30: Presentations of Reports and Written Summaries.

SENEGAL PORTION OF QUARTER:

Sunday 1/29: Arrive in Dakar: NIGHT ONE IN DAKAR

Monday 1/30: AM/PM Historical Tour of Dakar: NIGHT TWO IN DAKAR

PM - African Travel Writing Class: 2 hours

Tuesday 1/31: West African Research Center: NIGHT THREE IN DAKAR

AM – Grand Marché Visit & Wade Monument

PM – WARC Welcome Banquet: Presentation, Director of P.R.

Griot performance: Sanu Mbaye & Soninke singer from Sorano

(oral history as spoken and sang), 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Wednesday 2/1: Goree Island: NIGHT FOUR IN DAKAR

Museum Maison des Eclaves/ Slaves’ House

5-7pm Class: African Travel Writing: Reflections on Goree (2 hours)

Thursday 2/2: Religious Leaders & Lectures: NIGHT FIVE IN DAKAR

8-9:30 am Class: Pre-Mosque visit.

AM– Grand Tijaniyya Mosque - Talk: Mamarame Seck, IFAN.

PM – Catholic Cathedral - Abbe Jacques Seck.

Friday 2/3: WARA, IFAN, Diop University: NIGHT SIX IN DAKAR

AM –Lecture at WARC: Prof Louis Mendy on Sembene’s *Ceddo.*

Lunch at WARC

PM – IFAN & Diop University Visit.

Saturday 2/4: Dakar & Lake Retba: NIGHT SEVEN IN DAKAR

9-11 am Class: African Travel Writing (2 hours)

PM – Lake Retba Visit

Sunday 2/5: Dakar: NIGHT EIGHT IN DAKAR

AM –WARC: Lecturer: Dr. Sokhna Mai Mbacke Djamil, Young Women Leader of the Muridiyya;

Lunch at WARC.

PM – Surfing Lessons & Beach

Monday 2/6: Touba: NIGHT ONE IN SAINT LOUIS

AM – Travel to St. Louis via Touba.

PM – Tour Djourbel & Muridiyaa Mosque.

Tuesday 2/7: St. Louis: NIGHT TWO IN SAINT LOUIS

Free day to explore Saint Louis

PM – African Travel Writing (1 hour).

Wednesday 2/8: St. Louist: NIGHT THREE IN SAINT LOUIS

PM – Historical Tour of St. Louis

St Louis and Gaston Berger University:

PM – Tour of GBU & Guest Lecturer: Alassane Dia

4-7pm Class: 335; Topic: Tijaniyya in Futa Tooro

Thursday 2/9: NIGHT FOUR IN SAINT LOUIS

Visit to Alwaar

Friday 2/10: Free Day in Saint Louis: NIGHT FIVE IN SAINT LOUIS

PM – African Travel Writing (2 hours).

Saturday 2/11: NIGHT SIX IN SAINT LOUIS

Visit to Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary

Sunday 2/12: Class, Travel to Saly: NIGHT ONE IN SALY

AM Travel

PM – Beach

Monday 2/13 Saly: NIGHT TWO IN SALY

8-10am Class [350]

Visit to Djilor, Senghor’s village

Lecturer at Senghor’s Village.

Cultural Performance & Discussion

Tuesday, 2/14 Saly: NIGHT THREE IN SALY

8-10 am Class [333/350]

Visit Joal, Senghor’s Hometown

Lecturer: Raphael Ndiaye, Director, Foundation Senghor.

Wednesday 2/15: Saly: NIGHT FOUR IN SALY

8-11 am Class – Ablaye Diakaté (on Ajami Research)

PM: Lagune de la Somone – Boat Tour / Beach

Conferencing on African Travel Writing Project.

Thursday 2/16: Saly: NIGHT FIVE IN SALY

Reserve De Bandia / Beach

Conferencing on African Travel Writing Project

Friday 2/17: Saly: NIGHT SIX IN SALY

PAPER CONFERENCES.

 PM – Celebration Party, Local Band & Dancing

Saturday 2/18: Depart

Final assignments Due: F 3/10: **Final Project Due**.

*Note: All information on this syllabus is subject to revision.*