



Course Title: Wanderlust Chronicles: Travel Writing Adventures in London!

Program and Date: London Maymester, May 13-28, 2025

Academic Department: English

Instructor Name: Mickey Wadia

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Get to Know Your Professor

Dr. Mickey Wadia is Professor of English at Austin Peay State University. A Shakespearean scholar by discipline, he also teaches Technical Writing and courses within the Honors program and is a seasoned classroom veteran with 42 years of higher education teaching experience (32 of those years being at APSU). He regularly presents guest lectures on Shakespeare topics to students in both the Montgomery County School System and schools in Houston County. A frequently invited scholar/speaker for *Insight Talks* preceding performances of Shakespearean plays by the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Dr. Wadia is also the recipient of APSU's two most prestigious teaching awards: The *Socrates Award* (1996) and the *National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award* (2007).

A London travel veteran and study abroad "expert," Dr. Wadia has taken hundreds of students and community members to London, Scotland, Ireland, and Australia in his capacity as Chair of the Curriculum Committee and Board Trustee for CCSA. In 2019, he was invited to teach a Shakespeare class in London and Paris for the Catalyst program. He has also been invited as the APSU faculty representative to accompany APSU alumni in their travels to London, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria.

Course Description

Chart your narrative voyage on the Thames waterfront from Westminster Pier or stroll the South Bank for iconic views of the London Eye, Tower Bridge, and Shakespeare's Globe. Travel back in time via the Churchill War Rooms, the Tower of London, and opulent Windsor Castle. Enjoy vibrant street theater in Covent Garden and the mesmerizing melodies of talented buskers at train stations on the London Underground. Tentative field trip options include the magnificent Hampton Court Palace, the Secret Wartime Tunnels at Dover Castle, and the Bohemian seaside resort of Brighton! Document your incredible travel journey using a combination of expository writing modes such as narration, description, persuasion, comparison, and reflection. Let your Wanderlust Chronicles dazzle with digital storytelling magic, inspiring the next wave of intrepid explorers!



Course Level

Undergraduate; 3 credit hours.

Prerequisite(s)

You need to have completed your institution's basic writing requirements. If you're 26 and over at the time of travel, you are not required to take this class for college credit.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

1. Develop their ability to vividly describe locations, people, and experiences, capturing the essence of London's diverse neighborhoods and iconic landmarks. They can craft engaging and evocative travel narratives.
2. Acquire a deep understanding of London's history, culture, and contemporary life, enabling them to write with authenticity and insight.
3. Sharpen their observational skills to observe and describe places, people, and cultures accurately.
4. Write a review of attractions using a single exposition style (e.g. only narration) or prepare a review using multiple exposition styles (e.g. combining comparison and contrast, narrative, and process).
5. Craft compelling narratives that engage and persuade tourists to visit certain attractions and sites using a variety of rhetorical tricks, writing strategies, and stylistic techniques. For example, they will be able to state clearly the importance of visiting *The Churchill War Rooms* for XYZ reasons. They will be able to "sell" a destination for ABC reasons.
6. Demonstrate their abilities to conduct research for a particular site, learning how to gather and verify information about destinations, attractions, and local customs to enrich their travel writing.
7. Establish confidence in writing interesting travel blogs and simple Vlogs on a
8. Use the various modes of exposition (narration, description, process, comparison-contrast, persuasion, argument, etc.) to construct a paper.
9. Learn some photography techniques for shooting video or still pictures in a variety of settings and for creating videos that can "sell" a destination or a single attraction.



Required Readings and Materials

The official textbook for the course is **Lonely Planet's How to Be a Travel Writer** by Don George. It is available at www.amazon.com and other bookstores. Please bring your textbook with you to London. ISBN-13 is 978-1786578662. The e-version is fine as well.

Assignments and Grades

Museum (Review) 1.5-2 pages double-spaced minimum	50	5 %
Restaurant/Coffee Shop (Review) 1.5-2 pages double-spaced minimum	50	5 %
Analysis of any 1 show (West End) 1.5 pages double-spaced minimum	50	5 %
Captioned Photo Journal [min. 50 pictures] of London and outside London	200	20 %
Narrative Travel Writing Daily Journal (1 page per date)	200	20 %
Selected Excursion 1 (TBD closer to travel) Market/Neighborhood/Busker	150	15 %
Selected Excursion 2 (TBD closer to travel) Parks/Festivals/Hidden Gems	150	15 %
Get Lost Excursion Assignment (TBD closer to travel)	150	15 %
Total score:	1000	100%

EXAMPLES OF TRAVEL WRITING PROMPTS

Students will be learning how to create effective social media posts that connect the learning outcomes to the places they visit while they are in London. Here are some questions that invite reflection and contemplation. Look at the attraction name and then note the kinds of questions I might ask you to consider.

Here's a prompt that I would seriously consider including in the course:

Prompt: Discovering London's Hidden Corners

"London is known for its iconic landmarks, bustling streets, and vibrant culture. But countless hidden corners are waiting to be discovered beyond the famous attractions. For this assignment, explore a lesser-known part of London that captures your interest. It could be a quaint alleyway, a quiet park, a unique café, or a hidden museum gem. As you explore, take detailed notes on the sights, sounds, smells, and atmosphere. Write a 1.5—2 page piece that brings this hidden corner of London to life. Describe what makes this place special, how it contrasts with the more well-known parts of the city, and why it resonated with you. Use vivid imagery and sensory details to transport your readers to this secret spot."

- A. **Covent Garden: What stories lie hidden behind the bustling market stalls and historic architecture? Answer:** Covent Garden's transformation from a fruit market to a cultural hub invites exploration of urban regeneration and community dynamics. **Covent Garden**

got its name from its history as a garden area for a *convent* or monastery. (Students will, of course, be required to expand on the idea).

- B. **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: What role does this reconstructed theater play in preserving Shakespearean heritage?** *Answer:* The Globe immerses visitors in Elizabethan theater, sparking discussions about authenticity and artistic continuity (Students will, of course, be required to expand on the ideas).
- C. **The Tower of London: How does the Tower's rich history, from royal palace to prison, influence the way we perceive it today?** *Answer:* The Tower's dual identity as both fortress and symbol of power offers intriguing angles for exploration (Students will, of course, be required to expand on these ideas).

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

900—100 = A
800—899 = B
700—799 = C
600—699 = D
599 and below = F

Faculty reserves the right to tweak assignments and scoring. Students will be informed ahead of time as to the rubric and requirements.

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

Tentative day trips under consideration might include one or more of the following: Hampton Court Palace, Warwick Castle, Hever Castle, Stonehenge, Oxford, Bath, and the Bohemian seaside resort of Brighton!

Other amazing attractions and eateries that you can check out (some with me and others without me): https://travel.usnews.com/London_England/Things_To_Do/

- **The Tower of London** <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/#gs.janxiv>
- **London Sky Garden** <https://skygarden.london/>
- **Horizon 22** <https://horizon22.co.uk/visit/>
- **Camdentown:** <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/london-areas/camden-town/things-to-do-camden-town>

- **Greenwich, London:** <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/london-areas/greenwich/top-things-to-do-in-greenwich>
- **Hyde Park London** <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks/hyde-park>
- **British Museum** <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>
- **Victoria and Albert Museum** <https://www.vam.ac.uk/>
- **Natural History Museum** <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/>
- **Indian Restaurants in London** <https://www.cntraveller.com/gallery/best-indian-restaurants-in-london>
- **Brunswick Shopping Center** <https://brunswick.co.uk/>
- **Harrod's of London** <https://www.harrods.com/en-us>
- **Covent Garden** <https://www.coventgarden.london/>
- **Borough Market** <https://boroughmarket.org.uk/>
- **Shopping in London** <https://secretldn.com/shopping-in-london/>
- **Windsor Castle** <https://www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle>
- **Leicester Square TKTS for shows:** <https://officiallondontheatre.com/tkts/>
- **St. Paul's Cathedral** <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/>
- **Westminster Abbey** <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/visit-us>
- **Battersea Power Station** <https://batterseapowerstation.co.uk/>

Class Teaching Sessions

Classes will meet in London in various spaces and places (including classroom space at the hotel) at least five times; some classes may take place at the Globe Theater or other London locations e.g. Southbank OR Russell Square by Caffé Tropea in Bloomsbury. Some lectures may occur on a bus, a train, or an airport. At these meetings, I will provide you with information about the events we experience as they arise, and we will engage in the give-and-take of discussion. It is important that you feel free to ask questions. Students are encouraged to engage in debate and compare-contrast their perceptions of London attractions with sound reasoning and critical thinking.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Academic Integrity Policy

Dr. Wadia's AI Policy: Permitted when Assigned in this Course with Attribution:

In this course, students are permitted to use Generative AI Tools such as ChatGPT, CoPilot, Claude AI, or Google Gemini only for specific assignments as designated by the instructor. To maintain academic integrity, students must disclose any use of AI-generated material. I encourage responsible experimentation with AI tools, but I also emphasize the importance of ethical usage.



Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-6 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.