

## English 780 Studies in the Renaissance: Travel Writing

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Tuesday & Thursday 3.30-4.45  
MIN 215  
Office Hours: 2.00-3.00 PM T & Th  
and by appointment

### Objectives

Michel de Certeau writes that travel narratives “constitute interdisciplinary laboratories” where a vast range of fields and discourses converge.<sup>1</sup> We will begin our investigation of early modern travel writing with this premise. This conceptualization is particularly apt for the Renaissance as it coincides with the spread of print, the rise of literacy, the Reformation, the flowering of humanism and the eventual rise of empiricism. In terms of literary studies, early modern travel writing contains the roots of a range of modern practices: the novel, travel writing, journalism, anthropology, colonialism, and science.

I’ve selected the readings with the broadest possible sense of travel writing in order to present the range of possibilities de Certeau alludes to, and to present you each with the space to find an idea (or ideas) you are interested in pursuing in your term paper. Ideally, you will use the course material to engage critically with some of the theoretical conceptions we will discuss in class. If you would like to pursue a research project that departs significantly from the course focus, please check with me by the fifth week of class.

### Requirements

I will not take attendance, however regular attendance is crucial for active participation, so come to class. Various writing assignments will be due for each class meeting and you will be expected to be prepared to participate in the discussion. Précis assignments are objective summaries in the most efficient language you can summon. They should be 250 words long. Journal entries should be about 500 words long and should persuade me that you have read and thought about that assignment. The review of Greenblatt’s book should be a formal, scholarly review. Please see me if you would like details or examples. The term paper should be an article-length analytical work that engages critically with a text and/or aspect of the course material.

### Grading

3 Précis	10%
6 Journal Entries	10%
Review	40%
Term Paper	40%

### Texts

Stephen Greenblatt, *Marvelous Possessions*  
Andrew Hadfield, ed. *Amazons, Savages & Machiavels*  
Ivo Kamps & Jyotsna Singh, ed. *Travel Knowledge*  
C.W.R.D. Mosley, ed. *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*  
CDROM of pdf files

### **Students with Special Needs**

Any students with disabilities or other special needs who need special accommodations in this course are asked to share these concerns with me as soon as possible.

### **Academic Honesty**

I assume that all work you turn in for this course is yours, and any material that you have acquired from an outside source is documented properly. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism and will result in possible failure of the course. See NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>.

### **Late Papers**

Late papers will lose ten points per day until they are turned in. You are responsible for turning in all work assigned in this class. Failure to do so will result in failing this class.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Important parts of the work for this course will be done in small and large groups. This means that your consistent presence is important to the success of the class as a whole. If you are unable to attend class, you must contact me via phone or email within twenty-four hours. You are still responsible for any work done or due in class that day. Similarly, you are responsible for contacting your group members if you miss a class.

Participation includes not only contributing to class discussion, it also covers prompt attendance, listening and responding constructively to your classmates, attending class prepared to discuss the readings, and bringing your books and writing material to every class meeting.

### **Paper Format**

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be type-written, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in twelve-point Times font. Your name, the date, the class, my name and the assignment are to be at the top of the first page. Don't forget to title your work. Any papers longer than one page must have page numbers and be stapled.

**Calendar (subject to change)**

Week 1 Introductions

Week 2

Reading

*Mandeville*

Mandeville (STC 17250)

Discussion

Terminology: the other, the gaze, orientalism, imperialism, colonialism, post-colonialism, ethnography

Week 3

Reading

Hadfield Chapter 1

Hakluyt, *Principal Navigations* (STC 12626a) \*1r-\*\*6v (1<sup>st</sup> volume); \*1r-\*8v (2<sup>nd</sup> volume)

Greenblatt Chapters 1 & 2

Discussion

1. Hadfield
2. Hakluyt
3. Greenblatt

Writing

Précis of Greenblatt

Week 4

Reading

Coryate, *Crudities* (STC 5808) frontispiece, title page, ar-b4r; a4r-c2r; scan "Panegyricke Verses" (c3r-l4r)

Lithgow (STC 15713) frontispiece, A3r-B4v, 1-9

Moryson (STC 18205) ¶3r-2

Pratt essay

Discussion

1. Coryate
2. Lithgow & Moryson
3. Pratt

Writing

Journal on Lithgow & Moryson

New World

Week 5

Reading

Hadfield, Chapter 5 The Americas

Greenblatt Chapters 3 & 4

Bitterli essay

Discussion

1. Hadfield
2. Greenblatt
3. Bitterli

Writing

Précis of Greenblatt

Week 6

Reading

Greenblatt, Chapter 5

Harriot (STC 12786)

Raleigh?

Smith *The Generall Historie* ( STC 22790) frontispiece, )(r-B2r.

Fuller essay?

Discussion

1. Greenblatt
2. Harriot & Raleigh
3. Smith

Writing

Précis of Fuller?

Europe

Week 7

Reading

Hadfield Part 2, & pp. 127-38

Coryate, (STC 5808) pp. Lyons 55-67; Venice 158-291

More Lithgow?

Discussion

1. Hadfield
2. Coryate
- 3.

Writing

Journal on Coryate

Week 8

Reading

Nashe, *Unfortunate Traveller* (STC 18380)

Ahmad bin Qasim [al-Hajari] (handout)

Discussion

1. Nashe
2. bin Qasim

Writing

Review of Greenblatt

The Levant

Week 9

Reading

Hadfield Chapter 3

Sandys (STC 21726) Constantinople 28-76; Egypt 92-140;

Holy Land 141-217

Matar essay?

Discussion

1. Hadfield

2. Sandys

3. Matar

Writing

Journal on Sandys

Week 10

Reading

Kamps & Singh Part I

Timberlake (STC 24079)

Biddulph (STC 3051) ¶3r-B3v; Constantinople 17-30; Holy Land 86-144

(Get missing pages from me)

Discussion

1. Kamps & Singh

2. Timberlake

3. Biddulph

Writing

Journal on Timberlake and Biddulph

Africa

Week 11

Reading

Hadfield, pp. 139-51

Kamps & Singh III

Richard Eden, "A briefe description of *Afrike*" Hakluyt 2.2.10-11

William Towson, "Three Voyages..." Hakluyt 2.2.22-52

Discussion

1. Hadfield

2. Kamps & Singh

3. Eden & Towson

Writing

Journal on Towson

India and the Far East

Week 12

Reading

Kamps & Singh II

Coryate *Mr Thomas Coriat to His Friends* (STC 5809);

*Thomas Coriate Traueller* (STC 5811)

Linschoten (STC 15691) frontispiece, pp. A1r-A4v, 64-73, 77-87

Discussion

1. Kamps & Singh

2. Coryate

3. Linschoten

Writing

Journal on Linschoten

Week 13

Reading

Hadfield Part 4

“Certain Reports of ... China” Hakluyt 2.2.68-80, 88-98

R. Willes, “Of the Iland Iapan,” Hakluyt 2.2.80-88

Discussion

1. Hadfield

2. Hakluyt

Writing

Week 14

Reading

Discussion

Writing

Week 15

Reading

Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Writing

Week 16 Presentations

15 May Term Paper due in my office before 12.00

**English 780 Spring 2003 CDROM Contents**

## Disk 1

STC 3051	Biddulph
STC 3138	Blount
STC 5808	Coryate <i>Crudities</i>
STC 5809	Coryate <i>Mr Thomas Coriat to His Friends</i>
STC 5811	Coryate <i>Thomas Coriate Traueller</i>
STC 6789	Devereaux, et ala
STC 12626a	Hakluyt
STC 12786	Harriot
STC 13828	Hortop
STC 15481	Africanus
STC 15691	Linschoten
STC 15713	Lithgow
STC 16806	Castenheda
STC 17250	Mandeville
STC 18042	Montaigne

## Disk 2

STC 18205	Moryson
STC 18258	Reynard
STC 18380	Nashe
STC 20092	Marco Polo
STC 21726	Sandys
STC 22790	Smith
STC 24079	Timberlake
Wing T782	Terry

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<sup>i</sup> Michel De Certeau, "Travel Narratives of the French to Brazil: Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries" *Representations* 33 (Winter 1991): 222.