Course Title: Take Me There: A Travel Writing Bootcamp
Course Code: WSP 82
Instructor: Chaney Kwak

Course Summary:
"One’s destination is never a place,” wrote Henry Miller, “but rather a new way of looking at things.” Travel writing isn’t just about writing about “exotic” locales. When done right, it can transform the way we look at a place—a faraway country or your own backyard. The great Jan Morris said it best when she called great travel writing “more real than fiction, but more genuine than mere fact, too.”

In this weekend workshop, we will get a crash course on how to elevate an I-saw-this-then-I-ate-this tale into a compelling narrative. We will study dialogue, characters, tension, and place through an eclectic selection of readings and in-class writing exercises. In addition to prompts that will jumpstart your creative mind, we will also discuss important revision strategies. In a supportive environment, we will share our work to pick up important editing skills as well. Whether you are a memoirist recounting a significant moment in your life or a budding travel writer sending out your first pitch to editors, you will be well on your way to creating a long-form essay about an unforgettable place.

Required Textbooks
- You will receive an email one week before class with links to required readings available online. In addition, you will receive a packet in class.

Guest Speakers
An editor of a national magazine and a travel writer will join us via video chat. You will have a chance to ask them questions about their work.

Class Outline
This class is a generative workshop. The class consists of:
- Reading and discussing narrative travelogues, novel excerpts, pithy blog posts, practical reviews...
- Completing 20 writing exercises
- Video chat with two seasoned pros of the travel writing world
- Tips on revising your drafts

Over the course of two days, you will try your hand at diverse formats within the travel writing genre. These prompts are meant to spark creativity and get your writing muscles moving. While you will be encouraged to share, you will not be obligated to read anything you’ve produced. Whether you’re a complete novice or a seasoned writer, you will produce a lot of new work, so come ready to write.