Our seminar examines recent works of **literary nonfiction** about journeys in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Americas. Themes include cultural perceptions of wilderness, habitat preservation, endangered species, war and nature, environmental sustainability, development vs. the indigenous, and the social ecology of cities and schools. Case-studies and multimedia add to our study of distant places and cultures. For more details, see the course web site.

Meetings feature intensive critical and analytical discussion. Mid-term exam, final project. Grades: 25% for discussion, 25% for notes, 25% for midterm exam, 25% for final project.

**Texts**

Order from Labyrinth or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). Prices are 7/6/11. To get the right edition, copy the ISBN.

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Note: All Amazon books add shipping charges, usually $2.98 per copy.

1. **Travel**

Topics: orientation and observation.
Text: Joan Didion, *The White Album*
Cases: Didion, *California Water Wars* (read 10)

2. **Treks**

Topics: climbing to a summit
Text: Peter Matthiessen, *The Snow Leopard.*
Cases: Matthiessen, *Dolpo Snow Leopard Trek* (read 10)

3. **Places**

Topics: places as location, sequence, and status
Cases: Karen Blixen, *Kenya Coffee Production* (read 10)

4. **Quests**

Topics: stories that ask a question
Cases: Asne Seiristad, *Bookseller of Kabul Lawsuit* (read 10)
5. Frontiers
Topics: lines that divide, conquer, and connect
Cases: Che Guevara, *The San Pablo Leper Colony* (read 10)

6. Trails
Topics: tours, tourists, and liars
Text: Bill Bryson, *A Walk in the Woods*
Cases: Bryson, *Appalachian Trail Usage*

Mid-term: no class; exam released on Thursday; returned on Sunday.

8. Tourism Industry
Topics: cost, benefit, and self-reflection (Leslie Rowley)
Texts: Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place.* Flinn and Stephenson on being a tourist.
Cases: Kincaid, *Antigua Tourism Problems* (read 10)

9. Tourism Ethics
Topics: environment, culture, and politics (Leslie Rowley)
Texts: Figart, Dawson, Pitock on ecotourism; Chambers, Butler, Odede on cultural authenticity; Steinberg, Princeton Alumni Weekly on political affairs.
Cases: Ethics, Sustainable Travel, Authenticity, U.S. Department of State

10. Extremes
Topics: length, breadth, and height
Text: Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*
Cases: Krakauer, McCandless as SuperTramp (read 10)

Thanksgiving: no class

11. Home
Topics: house, home, and homeland
Text: Jill Ker Conway, *The Road from Coorain*
Cases: Conway, Women in Higher Education (read 10)

12. Abroad
Topics: students, faculty, administrators, alumni
Text: Anne Matthews, *Bright College Years*
Cases: Matthews, The Value of College (read 10)

Reading Period: option of a book review or an original travel/place story.

Professor: William Howarth • Office Hours: Thursdays, 11 am - 1 pm.
Visitor: Leslie Rowley, Associate Director of Princeton Alumni Education