

Writing.Walking.Winter January 2022

Rick Meier; rmeier@carthage.edu; x5937

Cell: 781 249 0673

office hours: Tues, Weds 12:30-1:30 on zoom, or by appointment; please make an appointment if possible. I am available for in-person office hours immediately following class.

Intention: This course will combine three activities often linked, walking, writing, and meditation in an environment in which the three are less often combined: January in Wisconsin. We will alternate longer walks at various locations within a short drive with shorter walks leaving from campus. Two Fridays, Jan. 14 and 21, will be for solo or small group walks in locations chosen by you.

Phones: If you do have your phone with you in the classroom, it needs to be turned off and put away before class begins. On walks, we will mainly use only pen and paper to make notes, though there will be opportunities to experiment with voice annotation and photo documentation. Phones are welcome on walks for use in emergencies or during specified activities. Otherwise, please keep your phones put away during walks.

Writing the walk: We will write each walk. What it means to write a walk will be a primary inquiry of the class. The class reader and other texts will provide models and a starting point for that inquiry.

Projects: Writing in-class and during and after walks. Writing to be typed and turned in weekly on Schoology. Final project will be a collection of writing and other materials.

Research: On Jan. 10, each of you will choose an aspect or aspects of the area to research/do additional reading/exploring. We will explore how research in various areas changes the experience and writing of the walks. Possible areas of research: natural history, with particular focus on one aspect: flora, fauna, geology, etc.; social/political/economic history; contemporary life.

Attendance: Essential. Walks and writing of walks require your presence. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you need to do to be prepared for the next class. If you miss more than three classes, your grade will be reduced.

Grades: Grades will be based on attendance (50%) and (50%) engagement with writing and walking. I do not give grades to individual projects in creative writing classes; however, if you wish to discuss your grade or how you might develop your engagement with the class, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

Covid and mask policy:

- Masks are required in all indoor spaces. Given the new omicron variant, please make every effort to wear a 3-layer, n95 or kn95 mask and keep the mask over your mouth and nose.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the classroom. Breaks will be provided for eating and drinking.

- If you test positive for COVID-19, contact Nick Winkler nwinkler@carthage.edu and/or Kimberlie Goldsberry kgoldsberry@carthage.edu for the next steps in determining your isolation period and to begin the contact tracing process.
- Thanks for doing what you can to keep us all safe.

Calendar (subject to change due to weather, etc.; I will post any changes as updates on Schoology):

Week 1:

Jan. 6 Introduction.

Jan. 7 Meditation. Writing. Brief Walk. Writing.

Assignment: read Herzog in class.

Week 2 Of Walking in Ice by Werner Herzog

Jan. 10 Meditation. Writing. Herzog. Walk. Writing.

Read *Of Walking in Ice*, Werner Herzog up to page 72.

Choose research area.

11 campus to beach

weekly writing turned in on Schoology.

Read remainder of *Of Walking in Ice*, Werner Herzog

12 Illinois Beach State Park South Unit

13 no 9 a.m. meeting; instead class meets at 7 pm in Campbell Student Union

Theater for screening of *Walking to Werner* and talkback with director Linas

Phillips

14 Solo or small group walk; begin reading Sebald, section 1.

Week 3 Rings of Saturn, W.G. Sebald

Jan. 17 Sebald introduction/MLK and walking/walk to Poerio Park

Read first three sections 1-71 of *Rings of Saturn*

18 Walk: Illinois Beach State Park North Unit

weekly writing turned in on Schoology.

Read 73-134 of *Rings of Saturn*

19 Read/Write/Research/Meditate/Short walk day

Read 135-190 *Rings of Saturn*

20 Writing/meditation/research/discussion of Sebald

Read 191-267 of *Rings of Saturn*

21 Solo or small group walk

finish *Rings of Saturn*

Week 4 Event Factory, Renee Gladman

Jan. 24 Walk: Downtown Kenosha/Dunes

Read up to 78 in *Event Factory*, Renee Gladman

25 meditating/writing/ Upper Sheridan to Pike River Mouth

Finish *Event Factory*

weekly writing turned in on Schoology.

26 TBD

27 Walk Kenosha dunes/Class readings from your project.

final project due 1.28 by the end of the day.

Notes:

Longer Walk Days are Jan. 12, 18, 19, 24, 26.

On those days:

9:00 Arrive in class and prepare to depart.

9:05 Depart. Please be in class and ready to leave at 9 am. Missed departures are an absence.

12 pm Return to campus.