ENGCMP
0565
Writing
Places:
Spring 2022
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 p.m. to
2:15 p.m.

How do we make meaning of our relationships to a particular place? What roles do spaces, ecologies or geographies play in shaping how we experience people, rooms, buildings, communities, regions or parts of the world? How do others, based on location, see us within these varied frames of reference and context? What features of our colonial past haunt our current circumstances?

Writing Places introduces students to cultural and rhetorical exchanges with a primary emphasis on location. We will explore writing across genres that focus on Pittsburgh, PA, USA; Cape Town, South Africa; and Belfast, Northern Ireland. We will examine landscape, portraiture and interactive writing as we explore themes of authenticity, barriers, contested ownership of space, representation of language(s) and memory.

In addition to reading published writing, listening and exploring interactive works, students will visit with guest speakers and local institutions. This cross-section of experiences will influence students’ original compositions as they will write across genres including: portraiture, interviews (audio and written) and interactive projects (including visual displays and digital mapping).

Together, we will consider what it means to construct, to take responsibility, to be culturally aware and to live in places, ranging from local ecologies and global communities to digital and virtual environments. Through this process we will be challenged to reorient our place, identity and sense of responsibility as we develop sensitivity to the myriad of concerns that emerge when writing place.

Fulfills
GER for
Writing