



World Geography, Spring 2012 – Writing Assignment (50 points)

You are a spy for a government agency that will remain nameless for the time being (but its initials are CIA). Seeing as how our government's knowledge of the rest of the world is poor at times, your mission is to collect information on a different location. Create a "reconnaissance" journal documenting each of your seven or so days in this *country* observing the economy, culture, government/politics, and climate (this is NOT a vacation). However, in this case, the materials you gather in preparation will be used as if you have actually made the trip. You must turn in an outline of your project (destination, themes & locations for every day) on March 22nd and the project itself is due May 3rd.

Instructions:

1 Choose one of the following locations:

Amman	Buenos Aires	Jakarta	Oslo	Seoul
Beijing	Cairo	Lagos	Panama City	Singapore
Belfast	Cape Town	Lima	Paris	Sydney
Berlin	Damascus	Madrid	Prague	Tokyo
Bogata	Havana	Mexico City	Riyadh	Warsaw
Budapest	Hong Kong	Moscow	Santiago	Zagreb

2 Search the internet for the least expensive fares for a round-trip flight to your destination. You will depart from LAX or SNA (Orange County) on or around **May 19th** and return about 7-9 days later. Document the source, price, flight & times in your journal. You have **maximum government mandated spending limits** of:

\$1750 in airfare (do not include hotel in this pricing)

\$1750 in additional expenses (hotel and food, transportation, bribes).

3 Use information gathered in the text, the library, and/or the internet you will plan an itinerary, "travel" that itinerary, and report on each stage of that trip.

4 Your goal is to observe a little something about the **culture, climate, politics/government, current events and economy** of a country (so don't just go to restaurants, museums & tourist spots).

5 In addition to culture, climate, politics/government, current events and economic issues, your reconnaissance journal **must** include:

- daily destinations
- weather
- conversion rates
- printed maps of country & city visited (including location of hotel)
- print out source of airfare (www.expedia.com or www.travelocity.com as examples)
- print out **1st** page of your country's country data from CIA World Factbook (www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html)
- US State Department travel advisories
- bibliography
- pictures are acceptable

6 Please do not simply log in your journal "got up, ate lunch, drank wine with locals, went back to hotel". This is insufficient. Nor should you just say "I went to *La Défense*". Well, what is the "*La Défense*"? (It is actually just a bunch of offices but it sounded interesting...) The library and the internet travel sites will be very important to planning and experiencing your vacation.

7 Full reports/journals are due May 3rd. Late journals receive maximum ½ credit.

8 Length should be at least 8-9 pages of text plus maps & other documentation of expenses & sources (web page print-outs). Anything more than might be excessive and too much for government officials to read. The format must be daily entries of where you went to, who you talked to, general expenses and work in observations about the culture, etc. of that country. Do not put in plastic sleeves or turn this into a scrap booking project. Failure to bind your project together will have a negative impact on your grade. 12 point font, double spaced. One inch margins.

9 Remember, you are gathering info about the area, and **you are not a tourist**. Seeing the Mona Lisa, or eating escargot, may be interesting, but not too enlightening about France.

10 Do not spend too much time on your "story" If you spend two pages planting a listening device and one sentence on what you learned – something is very wrong with your paper.

Mediocre Sample Summer Oslo Entry:

Today I spent the morning drinking coffee along Karl Johans Gate, the main street in central Oslo. Amazing how much the Norwegians enjoy being outside during the long summer days. It was striking that the sun didn't go down until midnight or so and was up only a few hours later. Ingrid, who was having her coffee next to me explained that the winters are just the opposite - painfully cold and the daylight lasts only a few hours thus they enjoy the summer days as much as possible. The summers are mild but humid in Norway. Despite the high latitude, the warm Gulf Stream ocean current keeps it warmer than expected. Apparently the 72 degree weather today was typical for this time of year. She invited me back for 'ute pils' that afternoon. Though I had no idea what that was, I knew pils meant beer so it had to be a good thing. I would re-schedule my planting bugs in the nearby city hall building for later that week (Norway.org).

Turns out 'ute pils' means 'outside beer'. This fits in with my morning observations. Over a few beers Ingrid described how happy she was to live in Norway. I was curious about Norway not being part of the European Union and she said they didn't need the EU. With all the wealth coming in from the North Sea oil reserves, they Norwegians were enjoying a high standard of living and the economy was thriving. There was no need to pay the high costs of EU membership. I would have to look into the oil money later this week... I did see a "Statoil" office downtown somewhere. I assume Statoil means State Oil. One drawback of the strong economy was the high costs of items including my \$14 pils and a really high tax rate (Wilson;norge.org).

The screenshot shows the Expedia.com website interface. The search results are for a roundtrip flight from Los Angeles, CA (LAX) to Oslo, Norway (OSL). The search filters are set to "non stop" and "1 stop". The flight options are sorted by price, with the lowest fare being \$805.57. The flight details for the \$805.57 option are: 11:50 am Depart Los Angeles (LAX) on Saturday, May 28, 2005, arriving in Oslo (OSL) at 12:05 pm on Sunday, May 29, 2005. The flight is operated by Northwest 312, connecting in Minneapolis (MSP) via Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl. (MSP) and Reykjavik (KEF). The return flight is on Saturday, June 4, 2005, departing Oslo (OSL) at 2:45 pm and arriving in Los Angeles (LAX) at 10:54 pm, operated by Northwest 321, connecting in Reykjavik (KEF) and Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl. (MSP).

(Please note that in the bibliography for this I would have the sources documented).

