

English 102: An Inquiry into Place
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Early in his book Blue Highways, the author William Least Heat-Moon writes that “A man who couldn’t make things go right could at least go.” What follows is a description of his journey around and into America. In the book, Heat-Moon provides excellent examples of several of the types of writing that are expected from English 102 students at this university: he provides ethnographic observations of the towns he visits, does historical research on the people and places he encounters, and throughout the book takes an introspective view of himself and his place in the world.

This class takes its inspiration (and several assignments) from Blue Highways. Students will examine their “home places” as well as their home at the university, and will think of ways that they would work to shape the place they inhabit.

Assignments will include ethnographic, historical, and academic discourse research papers and a multimedia/Web presentation.