International On-Line Collaboration between SUNY Cortland’s Professional Writing and Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey

In an effort to begin building an international concentration in our major, Dr. David Franke and I have constructed a collaborative online international writing workshop. In the workshop, our Professional Writing seniors at the State University of New York at Cortland will collaborate with Victoria Boynton’s class at Anadolu University in Turkey. Boynton will be teaching Travel Writing/Culture Writing: A Sense of Place; Franke will be teaching the Senior Seminar in Professional Writing, with a theme of place. In addition, Boynton’s Turkish class will collaborate with Professor Lian Xu’s class in Beijing, China, Capital Normal University.

During the exchanges between Turkish writers studying English and would-be travel writers and editors at SUNY Cortland, students in both locations will encounter, reflect, and respond to one another’s writing about place. In addition, we will be discussing issues of cultural sensitivity and appreciating difference. Through this writing workshop project, students will gain global writing and editing experience and will have a chance to practice cross-cultural communication.

The Questions that Organize our Presentation:

What class are you teaching, and why is it a good fit for an online collaborative workshop?

What logistical and technological issues did you surmount to make this work?

At what point did the experience become valuable and real for the students?

At what point did the experience become valuable and real for the teachers?

What would you change if you were to do it again?

How are we planning to build international collaborations throughout our Professional Writing major?