

Pilgrimage, Travel, and Tourism
LSHV 435-30
Summer 2008
Prof. Frederick Ruf

“Pilgrimage, Travel, and Tourism”

“Only thoughts reached while walking have value,” wrote Nietzsche. Religions seem to have a similar view. Pilgrimage has been a wide-spread aspect of most religions, through most historical periods. This course will examine the relation of travel (in its many guises) to religion from pilgrimage to common tourism. The overarching theory for the course will be my own recent book, *Bewildered Travel: The Sacred Quest for Confusion*. Classic and contemporary theories of pilgrimage will provide the backdrop. The majority of the course, however, will focus on the present day and on contexts that are not explicitly religious by reading travel accounts by Henry Miller, Alphonso Lingis, and Jack Gilbert. The point of the course, then, is to examine why travel is so important religiously and how all travel, even tourism, is religiously significant.

First Meeting: Introduction, Religion and Travel
Text: Mary Oliver, “Acid”

Second Meeting: Travel and Disruption
Reading: Chapter One, “Love of Ruptures” in Ruf, *Bewildered Travel: The Sacred Quest for Confusion*
Text: Walt Whitman, “Song of the Open Road”

Third Meeting: Theories of Pilgrimage
Readings: Victor and Edith Turner, “Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon” from *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives* (1978) (available in Blackboard)
John Eade and Michael J. Sallnow, “Introduction” to *Contesting the Sacred: The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage* (1991) (available in Blackboard)
Text: Jack Gilbert, “Going Wrong,” “Tear it Down,” “Going There,” “On Stone,” “Harm and Boon in the Meetings”

Fourth Meeting: Theories of Pilgrimage
Readings: James, Clifford, “Traveling Cultures” from *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century* (1997) (available in Blackboard)
Chapter Two, “Commerce with the Ancients” in Ruf
Text: Gilbert, “Going Wrong,” “Searching for Pittsburgh,” “Trying to Have Something Left Over,” “Exceeding,” “The Edge of the World,”

“Almost Happy”
Paper #1 due

- Fifth Meeting: Travel as Pilgrimage
Readings: Chapter Three, “The Pilgrim's Progress” in Ruf
Text: Miller, *The Colossus of Maroussi* (first half)
- Sixth Meeting: Travel and Religious Strangers
Readings: Chapter Four, “The Ride of Passage” in Ruf
Text: Miller, *The Colossus of Maroussi*
- Seventh Meeting: Travel and Tourism
Readings: Chapter Five, “Holy Strangers” in Ruf
Text: Alphonso Lingis, "Tawantinsuyu" in *Abuses* (in Blackboard)
Paper #2 due
- Eighth Meeting: The Religious Value of Travel
Reading: Chapter Six, "Guides for the Perplexed" in Ruf
Text: Lingis, "Matagalpa" and "Khlung Toei" in *Abuses* (in Blackboard)
- Ninth Meeting: The Religious Value of Travel
Reading, Chapter Seven, "Street People" in Ruf

Final paper due one week after final class

Books Required

James, Clifford, "Traveling Cultures" from *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century* (1997) (available in Blackboard)

John Eade and Michael J. Sallnow, "Introduction" to *Contesting the Sacred : The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage* (1991) (available in Blackboard)

Jack Gilbert, *The Great Fires: Poems 1982 – 1992* (Knopf 1997) (ISBN 0-679-42576-4)

Alphonso Lingis, *Abuses* (University of California Press, 1995) (selections available in Blackboard)

Henry Miller, *The Colossus of Maroussi* (New Directions, 1975) (ISBN 978-0811201094)

Frederick Ruf, *Bewilderment: Travel and the Quest for Religious Confusion* (Virginia, 2007) (978-0813926742)

Victor and Edith Turner, "Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon" from *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives* (1978) (available in Blackboard)

Walt Whitman, “Song of the Open Road” (available on Blackboard)

* Books are *not* ordered through the Georgetown Bookstore. I provide the ISBN's so you can order or purchase the books wherever you would like. They *are* available at Bridge Street Books on M St (where it becomes Pennsylvania Ave around six blocks east of Wisconsin).

Course Requirements:

1. Only one class meeting missed (there are only 9 meetings!)
2. Two brief papers, 3 pages in length (10% of final grade each)
 - Paper #1: Analyze how either liminality or contestation works in some place that you have visited (the place needn't be abroad).
 - Paper #2: Clifford states that "we need to focus on hybrid, cosmopolitan experiences" in studying others. (24) Analyze either Gilbert or Miller as also "hybrid and cosmopolitan."
3. Final paper. 8 - 10 pages. (50% of final grade)
 - Topic: "Analyze the valuable disruptions of travel in your own traveling experience, using Ruf and any one of the other writers (Miller, Gilbert, or Lingis).
4. Class participation (20% of final grade)

N.B. Requirements for graduate and undergraduate students are identical, but there will be a greater expectation of quality in the essays, exams, and class participation of those taking the course for graduate credit.

Disabilities Statement:

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.