Pilgrimage, Travel, and Tourism   
Theology 102-10

Summer 2015

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. 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, as well as five films. The point of the course, then, is to examine why travel is so important religiously and how all travel, even tourism, is religiously significant.

Week 1

Monday: Travel and Religion

Reading: supplied in class (by Mary Oliver)

Tuesday: Victor Turner, Henry Miller

Reading: "Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon" from

*Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture:* *Anthropological*

*Perspectives* (1978) (Blackboard)

Reading: Miller, *The Colossus of Maroussi*

Wednesday: Miller

Reading: Miller, *Colossus*

Thursday: film, conclusions

Film: *The Way* (Estevez, 2010)

Week 2

Monday: Eade & Sallnow, Jack Gilbert

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

Reading: Gilbert, *The Great Fires* (especially “Searching for

Pittsburgh,” “Trying to Have Something Left Over,” “Exceeding,” “The Edge of the World,” “Almost Happy” Jack Gilbert, “Going Wrong,” “Tear it Down,” “Going There,” “On Stone,” “Harm and Boon in the Meetings”

Paper #1 Due

Tuesday: Post-Colonialism, Gilbert

Reading: Mary Louise Pratt,“In the Neocolony: Modernity,

Mobility, Globality” (Blackboard)

Gilbert, “Searching for Pittsburgh,” “Trying to Have

Something Left Over,” “Exceeding,” “The Edge of the

World,” “Almost Happy”

Wednesday: *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Kubrick, 1967)

Thursday: Contested Discourses

Week 3

Monday: Winquist, “Beginnings,” “The Incorrigibility of Body and the Re-

Figuring of Discourse”

Tuesday: Winquist, “Theological Text Production”

Wednesday: *La Dolce Vita* (Fellini, 1960)

Thursday: Postmodern Travel

Week 4

Monday: Lingis, "Tawantinsuyu,” “Matagalpa”

Paper #2 Due

Tuesday: Lingis, "Khlong Toei,” “Accompaniment”

Wednesday:  *The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939)

Thursday: Lingis Conclusions

Week 5

Monday: *Lost in Translation* (Coppola, 2003)

Tuesday: Course Conclusions

Wednesday: final exam

Books Required

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

Alphonso Lingis, *Abuses* (University of California Press, 1995) (978-0520203440 - out of print, you’ll need to buy it used; if you can’t find it, I’ll post the readings on Blackboard)

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

Articles

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

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

Mary Louise Pratt,“In the Neocolony: Modernity, Mobility, Globality” (Blackboard)

Charles Winquist, “Beginnings,” “The Incorrigibility of Body and the Refiguring of Discourse,” and “Theological Text Production” from *Desiring Theology* (1995) (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.

Films (all will be available streaming on Blackboard under “Tools”)

*The Way* (Estevez, 2010)

*Lost in Translation* (Coppola, 2003)

*La Dolce Vita* (Fellini, 1960)

*2001: A Space Odyssey* (Kubrick, 1967)

*The Wizard of Oz* (Fleming, 1939)

Course Requirements:

1. All class meetings (if more than two classes are missed the grade will be affected)

2. Two essays (5 pages) (20% of final grade each)

3. Final exam (40% of final grade)

4. Class participation (20% of final grade)

Office: 113 New North

Phone: 7-6233

Email: rufb@georgetown.edu