“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.

Learning Goals

This course will pursue the following learning goals:

- What it means to be human
- What contributes to human flourishing
- What constitutes the social dimension of humanity
- What enables genuine community

First Meeting:  Introduction, Religion and Travel
Reading: Mary Oliver, *Dream Work* (selections, supplied in class)

  “Acid,” “The Journey,” “Wild Geese,” “Clamming,” “Coming Home” (from *Dream Work* [1986])

Second Meeting:  Theory of Pilgrimage: Liminality

Text: Henry Miller, *The Colossus of Maroussi*
Third Meeting: Theory of Pilgrimage: Liminality

Text: Colossus of Maroussi

Film: The Way (Estevez, 2010)

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

Text: Colossus of Maroussi

Film: 2001: A Space Odyssey (Kubrick, 1968)

Fifth Meeting: Theories of Pilgrimage: Postmodernism
Reading: Winquist, "Beginnings,” "Incorrigibility of Body and the Refiguring of Discourse” (Blackboard)


Paper #1 Due

Sixth Meeting: Theories of Travel: Postmodernism
Reading: Winquist, “Theological Text Production” (Blackboard)

Text: Gilbert

Seventh Meeting: Theory of Travel: Postmodernism
Reading: Winquist, (Blackboard)

Text: Gilbert

Film: La Dolce Vita (Fellini, 1960)
Eighth Meeting: Theory of Travel: Lingis
Text: Alphonso Lingis, "Tawantinsuyu," "Matagalpa"

Ninth Meeting: Theory of Travel: Postcolonialism
Reading: Mary Louise Pratt, "In the Neocolony: Modernity, Mobility, Globality"
Text: Lingis, “Lust,” "Khlong Toei"
Paper #2 Due

Tenth Meeting: Conclusions
Text: Lingis, “Accompaniment”
Film: Lost in Translation (Coppola, 2003)

Eleventh Meeting: Final Exam (or take home)

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)

Readings

Mary Oliver, Dream Work (selections, supplied in class)


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


Alphonso Lingis, *Abuses* (University of California Press, 1995) (978-0520203440 - out of print, you'll need to buy it used. If it’s unavailable or too expensive, I’ll post the readings on Blackboard)*


* Books are *not* ordered through the Georgetown Bookstore. I provide the ISBNs so you can order or purchase the books wherever you would like.

**Course Requirements**

1. Only one class meeting can be missed (there are only 11 meetings!)
2. Two brief papers, 4 pages in length (20% of final grade each)
3. Final exam. (40% of final grade)
4. Class participation (20% of final grade)

**Honor Code**

MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:

*In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor; and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.*

**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.