

Pilgrimage, Travel, and Tourism  
LSHV 435-40  
Summer 2017  
Prof. Frederick Ruf

May 24 – July 26  
6 - 9:45pm  
Maguire 103

## “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.

### 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,” (from *Dream Work* [1986]); “A Few Words” (from *Blue Pastures* [1995])

Second Meeting: Theory of Pilgrimage: Liminality  
Reading: Victor and Edith Turner, “Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon” from *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives* (1978) (available in Blackboard)

Text: Jenny Diski, *Stranger on a Train*

- Third Meeting: Theory of Pilgrimage: Liminality  
Reading: Victor and Edith Turner  
  
Text: Jenny Diski, *Stranger on a Train*  
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: Jenny Diski, *Stranger on a Train*  
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)  
  
Text: Jack 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
- 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, "Khlung 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)

*The Way* (Estevez, 2010)  
*2001: A Space Odyssey* (Kubrick, 1967)  
*La Dolce Vita* (Fellini, 1960)  
*Lost in Translation* (Coppola, 2003)

Readings

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

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 Incorrigeability of Body and the Refiguring of Discourse," and "Theological Text Production" from *Desiring Theology* (1995) (Blackboard)

Alphonso Lingis, *Abuses* (1995) (Blackboard)

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

Jenny Diski, *Stranger on a Train* (Picador, 2002) (ISBN 0-312-42262-8)\*

\* 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, 5 pages in length (20% of final grade each)
3. Final exam (take-home). (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](mailto: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.