

Pilgrimage: Journeys in Search of Meaning

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

Romantic, dangerous, emotional, exotic, humbling, empowering, penitent, and wondrous are all descriptions that come to mind when considering the great pilgrimages of the world. The act of traveling to sacred locations represents one of the oldest and most important forms of spiritual expression. In Japan, pilgrimage is a central practice across religious traditions, and sacred journeys have helped to shape even popular secular culture.

This course is designed to introduce students to global pilgrimage traditions with a special concentration on the rich heritage of sacred travel in Japan. We will consider a colorful array of traveling spiritual seekers through fiction, film, scholarship, and diary accounts. Students will practically engage literary perspectives by pursuing independent research in which they are encouraged to explore a pilgrimage tradition or sacred location with a research method of their choice. For many, this will allow them to discover important pilgrimage sites located throughout the Kansai area, some even quite near to the Kansai Gaidai campus.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

- to understanding the fundamental meanings of spiritual travel in Japan and beyond
- to learn to execute a major research project of your own design

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

1.) Course Introduction: Is it pilgrimage?

Review Syllabus and Reading Materials

2.) Introduction to Local Pilgrimage Sites; Asceticism and Grace

READING: "Kyoto Pilgrimages Past and Present" pp. 10-16

3.) Theoretical Perspectives on Sacred Travel

READING: "Introduction: Landscapes Surveyed" pp. 6-9; "Epilogue: Landscapes Reviewed" pp. 196-220

4.) Introduction to Japanese Pilgrimage

READING: "The Three Types of Pilgrimage in Japan" by Kitagawa p. 127-136

5.) Japanese Monks Traveling to China and Esoteric Traditions

READING: Timeline of Japanese Buddhist History pp. 4-7

"Heian Buddhism: Saicho and Kūkai" pp. 190-196

6.) The Craziest Ascetic Practice? The Marathon Monks of Mt. Hiei

READING: "The Kaihōgyō Practice of Mt. Hiei" pp. 197-214

7.) Pilgrimage to the Kami

READING: "Inari Pilgrimage" pp. 245-270

8.) Mountain Pilgrimage and the Kumano Kodo

READING: "Shugendō and the Yoshino-Kumano Pilgrimage" pp.215-244

9.) The Travels of the Poet Bashō: The Man and the Journey

READING: "Narrow Road to the Deep North" p. 1-10

10.) The Travels of the Poet Bashō II: The Aesthetics of Travel

READING: "Bashō and the Aesthetics of Wandering: Recuperating Space, Recognizing Place, and Following the Ways of the Universe" p.291-302 **DISCUSSION LEADERS:

11.) Holy Island: The Shikoku Henro

READING: From Making Pilgrimages pp. 9-38

12.) Henro (II): Pilgrims who Stick Out

READING: "Black Swans in White Clothing" p. 153-165

13.) Islamic Pilgrimage: The Allure of the Hajj

READING: "Centre in Desert..." pp. 92-104

14.) Islamic pilgrimage: Personal Accounts (II)

READING: "The pilgrimage to Mecca" pp. 158-159

"Mecca... One Woman's Journey" pp. 176-188

15.) Final Project-Related Exercises

ASSIGNMENT: Complete Written Homework A

16.) Journey to the West: Background

READING: "Monkey" intro., preface, and pp. 119-180

17.) Journey to the West: Onward to Gandala

READING: "Monkey" pp. 181-246

18.) Journey to the West: The Fateful Climax

READING: "Monkey" pp. 247-305

19.) Final Project-Related Exercises

ASSIGNMENT : Complete Written Homework Assignment B

20.) Christian Pilgrimage: The Journey to Santiago

READING: "A Pilgrim, but a Tourist, Too" from the New York Times

21.) Travel for Art: The Burning Man

Reading: From *Theatre in a Crowded Fire* pp. 247-256

22.) Virtual Pilgrimage

READING: "Cyberpilgrimage..." pp. 160-175

23.) RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS ****ALL PROJECTS DUE

24.) RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

ASSIGNMENT: Reflect on Previous Presentations

25.) RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

ASSIGNMENT: Reflect on Previous Presentations

26.) In-class Video "Shugendō Now"

ASSIGNMENT: Reflect on Previous Presentations

27.) Pseudo or Crypto Pilgrimage: "Holy Places" for Manga and Anime Fans

READING: by Imai p. 120-135

28.) Wanderings of the American Beat Generation

READING: The Dharma Bums pp. 342-378

29.) In-class Video "Aruki Henro"

ASSIGNMENT: Do review in preparation for exam

30.) Exam Review

ASSIGNMENT: Complete review and create a list of questions.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

***All course reading materials will be provided by the professor or will be available online**

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Research Project	60%
Participation	20%
Homework/Quizzes	10%
Final Exam	10%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Regular attendance is required for this course. **2.5% will be deducted from the student's final grade for each absence.** Students are required to be prepared by carefully reading the assignments. The instructor reserves the right to employ unannounced quizzes, take-home assignments, or in-class writings to monitor student preparation.