

Pilgrimage: Journeys in Search of Meaning

Section 1

Instructor	Dr. John A. Shultz, Associate Professor
Office/Building	6407 (ICC)
Office Hours	Monday 1:15-2:25/Tuesday 10:45-12:15

【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 understand 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】

Lecture 1	Course Introduction: Is it pilgrimage?	Review Syllabus and Reading Materials
Lecture 2	Introduction to Local Pilgrimage Sites; Asceticism and Grace	READING: "Kyoto Pilgrimages Past and Present" pp. 10-16
Lecture 3	Theoretical Perspectives on Sacred Travel	READING: "Introduction: Landscapes Surveyed" pp. 6-9; "Epilogue: Landscapes Reviewed" pp. 196-220
Lecture 4	Introduction to Japanese Pilgrimage	READING: "The Three Types of Pilgrimage in Japan" by Kitagawa p. 127-136

2023 Spring Semester

Lecture 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
Lecture 6	The Craziest Ascetic Practice? The Marathon Monks of Mt. Hiei	READING: “The Kaihōgyō Practice of Mt. Hiei” pp. 197–214
Lecture 7	Pilgrimage to the Kami	READING: “Inari Pilgrimage” pp. 245–270
Lecture 8	Mountain Pilgrimage and the Kumano Kodo	READING: “Shugendō and the Yoshino–Kumano Pilgrimage” pp.215–244
Lecture 9	The Travels of the Poet Bashō: The Man and the Journey	READING: “Narrow Road to the Deep North” p. 1–10
Lecture 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
Lecture 11	Holy Island: The Shikoku Henro	READING: From Making Pilgrimages pp. 9–38
Lecture 12	Henro (II): Pilgrims who Stick Out	READING: “Black Swans in White Clothing” p. 153–165
Lecture 13	Islamic Pilgrimage: The Allure of the Hajj	READING: “Centre in Desert…” pp. 92–104
Lecture 14	Islamic pilgrimage: Personal Accounts (II)	READING: “The pilgrimage to Mecca” pp. 158–159 “Mecca… One Woman’s Journey” pp. 176–188
Lecture 15	Final Project–Related Exercises	ASSIGNMENT: Complete Written Homework A
Lecture 16	Journey to the West: Background	READING: “Monkey” intro., preface, and pp. 119–180
Lecture 17	Journey to the West: Onward to Gandala	READING: “Monkey” pp. 181–246

2023 Spring Semester

Lecture 18	Journey to the West: The Fateful Climax	READING: "Monkey" pp. 247–305
Lecture 19	Final Project-Related Exercises	ASSIGNMENT : Complete Written Homework Assignment B
Lecture 20	Christian Pilgrimage: The Journey to Santiago	READING: "A Pilgrim, but a Tourist, Too" from the New York Times
Lecture 21	Travel for Art: The Burning Man	Reading: From Theatre in a Crowded Fire pp. 247–256
Lecture 22	Virtual Pilgrimage	READING: "Cyberpilgrimage ..." pp. 160–175
Lecture 23	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	ASSIGNMENT: All projects due.
Lecture 24	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	ASSIGNMENT: Create discussion questions based on presentations
Lecture 25	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	ASSIGNMENT: Create discussion questions based on presentations
Lecture 26	Pseudo or Crypto Pilgrimage: "Holy Places" for Manga and Anime Fans	READING: by Imai p. 120–135
Lecture 27	Wanderings of the American Beat Generation	READING: The Dharma Bums pp. 342–378
Lecture 28	Content Exam Review	ASSIGNMENT: Prepare questions for review session
Lecture 29	Content Exam; short lecture on hippie climbers	ASSIGNMENT: Do review in preparation for exam
Lecture 30	In-class Video "Shugendō Now"	ASSIGNMENT: Complete reflection exercise

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All texts and resources will be provided to you by the professor.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Project 60%

2023 Spring Semester

Quizzes/Homework 10%

Participation 20%

Content Exam 10%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

2.5% will be deducted off the student's final grade for each unexcused absence.