

Religion 225 Pilgrimage: Searching for God in a (Post)modern World (M3)

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Course Description: We will study, reflect and act with respect to the (dis)connections between theology and culture, using "pilgrimage" as a case study. Students will be immersed in various examples of pilgrimage from diverse religions as well as secular examples, and will engage in

their own pilgrimage experience as a part of their learning. *Important Note: This course is part of a pilot project to explore online courses in the humanities, and will be organized according to an online format. Students will need to virtually attend a certain number of required "synchronous classes". Please enroll asap in our Blackboard shell; no password needed to enroll: <http://blackboard.moravian.edu>*

Additional Course Description: "When people converge in a pilgrimage, meanings collide." (Sallnow, 137) "Pilgrimages are journeys to the sacred, but the sacred is not something which stands beyond the domain of the cultural; it is imagined, defined, and articulated within cultural." (Bowman, 120) In this course, students will spend fifteen weeks studying, reflecting and acting with respect to the connections and disconnections between theology and culture, using "pilgrimage" as a case study. We will begin by learning some of the foundational tools used by scholars of religion to help us understand how they investigate this relationship, and through what kinds of methods. At the same time, from the beginning of our work students will immerse themselves in various examples of pilgrimage taking place in the post-modern world. We will ask why it is that this practice is growing both in and outside of world religions. We will study a plethora of examples. We will engage with the work of scholars who are looking closely at various pilgrimages around the world, and study their methods of investigation. Finally, students will take one full day near the end of our course, and embark on their

What you'll be doing for your work Each Week

- In an online course, these instructions/outlines are all-important for you to know **what** you are doing and **when**: remember that whenever you have questions, you should get in touch with me a.s.a.p!
- Each week, before doing anything else, read through the entire section in the syllabus that blocks out the week regarding your reading, assignments, and other information. *Then, pull out your calendar and block out the times adding up to about 10 hours that you plan to spend on each segment of your work for that week. Make sure that you don't forget to schedule in our synchronous class meetings! **The dates and descriptions of our synchronous class meetings are in blue font in this syllabus. The due dates for all writing and other assignments are in red font at the end of each week's description for your study.***
- *Right now enroll in our BB site and complete the Photo Booth video self-intro assignment about what is paramount in your mind as you begin this course, and what you hope to get from it.*

own pilgrimage. At this point, members of our class will be invited to reflect themselves on what it means to become a pilgrim (if only for one day!) and how and why such time/space/activity might be important and meaningful in their own lives. Students' final project will be to present to the professor and classmates a powerpoint or prezzi presentation about this experience, and their own scholarly/spiritual investigation of it, using tools and scholarly materials they have studied in this course.

Time you will need for this online course

1. You should plan on spending **10 hours each week for this course**, plus additional time on the weekends. All reading/film assignments will be accompanied by written assignments that you submit to the Blackboard drop box. I will assign between 50 to 75 pages of reading each week (less when I have assigned you a film, more when the reading is of a popular nature). The accompanying writing assignments are designed to help you dig into these course materials and understand their arguments, and think about the relationship between the phenomenon of pilgrimage, theology and culture. Please see the grading rubric for writing assignments in our BB course information link; this will help you know how to approach these assignments. We also will discuss this at our first synchronous class meeting. Please note: late assignments will not be accepted; thus, it is imperative that you create a weekly schedule for your work, and you stay on track each day! If you wish to submit assignments early, you may. My commitment is to return all written assignments within 2-3 days with written comments, so that I can give you weekly feedback about how you are doing in the course. Make sure that you open your returned assignments to see my feedback.

2. In addition, there are a number of required “synchronous class meetings” that you must attend. The times and dates for these are in blue font in the syllabus. Please mark these now in your calendars and be prepared to attend virtually.

Important Note: I invite you to approach this course mindfully, meditatively, reflectively, as well as critically with your best intellectual rigor. My hope is that students will use our materials as a springboard for your own best reflection and analysis. The course is designed in such a way so as to engage you in critical investigation, creative synthesis, and the opportunity to engage in your own spiritual searching and reflection. This all means taking time. If you attempt to “pound out” the course with as little time as possible, you will take much less from it, and your work will demonstrate your attitude. Please take time to allow the material to help your mind, imagination and spirit to wander (wandering is at the heart of being a pilgrim!). See where the material leads you internally as well as critically. USE this course to further your intellectual growth, and your growth in spirit and imagination.

3. Each week you have writing assignments that will be due on Saturday by noon in the drop box. Your work is designed to help you synthesize, reflect critically, raise your own questions and respond to the material we are studying.

4. The last weeks of our course will be dedicated to your own individual pilgrimages, and design/analysis of this experience. See the learning module below that discusses this further. Please note in your calendar now the day/time, and brief outline of your pilgrimage plan is due. Begin thinking about what you would like to do for this requirement NOW. This is to give me time to respond to your plan, and time to regroup if necessary. See the Wiki in Course

Information that lists various types of local pilgrimage experiences . . . and please feel free to add to it! This is not provided as a list for you to choose from, but as a list just to get you thinking about possibilities. . .

Information regarding the online format of this course

1. All of your work will be accessed online, and your assignments for this course also will be submitted online through Blackboard. Note the dates for our synchronous class sessions below in blue font. [More information about how to login to our synchronous classes below.](#)

2. [I will email you very soon regarding the application we will use for our synchronous classes. Office hours will be some time on Friday through google hangouts. Check with the Help Desk if you do not know how to use this tool.](#)

3. The online format of this course will require you to be a learner who is independent and self-starting. Please be aware that most students find online courses to be not less challenging but more challenging than face-to-face.

4. Grading will be as follows below: You may access your grades anytime through the BB Gradebook.

55% of your grade will be the combined total of weekly writing assignments

10% of your grade will be “participation”. This includes: your engaged, prompt, prepared and intelligent participation in all our synchronous class sessions; turning in your work on time; engaged and proactive “teamwork” with others in class as assigned, stepping forward to make use of online opportunities to meet with and discuss class issues with the professor, etc.

15% of your grade will be the first 6-7 paper

20% of your grade will be your ppt, oral presentation, and 6-7 final paper regarding your final pilgrimage project

6. Check in advance to make sure that you have the adequate technology required for this course. You will be accessing Reeve's ebooks, watching films through Youtube (and Netflix or some other vendor of your own choice), using Blackboard and google hangout/docs. You will not only need an adequate computer but should have headphones for our synchronous classtimes, and a camera in your computer so that we have visual access. Having a camera on your phone, or a tablet or other camera whose digital photos you can download easily to your computer will be a must for your own pilgrimage. Please be in touch with the Help Center regarding any questions you may have about computer issues, and in touch with me about any other questions regarding required technology.

Office Hours

I will be checking email periodically every day of the course. If you wish to meet with me via google hangout or phone, please send me an email, and we will make an arrangement to do so. [I plan to hold google hangout office hours on Fridays, probably around noon. We'll discuss this at our first synchronous class. I may also arrange additional optional Google Hangout synchronous classtimes if students need/wish for more interactive time together.](#) If you have any problems, or are not understanding what we are doing, please do not wait, but get in touch with me a.s.a.p. You will find that I am very receptive. Please give me up to 1 day to respond to your email; in many cases I will get to it much sooner.

Academic Honesty

Students must abide by the conventions of scholarly work, most importantly, the conventions of citation. All students should read and be familiar with the college policy on Academic Honesty

included in the student handbook. All written work must include full and proper citations. There are no exceptions, including ignorance. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failing this course.

Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

Syllabus Status

This syllabus and the course contents are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. I will inform you via email and BB announcements if any such changes are needed.

Learning Objectives

- 1. You will be able to articulate and understand how scholars of religion investigate the relationship between theology and culture.*
- 2. You will be able to speak about similarities and differences regarding practices of pilgrimage in the postmodern world.*
- 3. You will explore and grow in your own understanding regarding the complexity of religious searching and practice in today's world.*
- 4. You will gain better self-understanding, and empathy regarding the connections between yourself and searchers of many diverse strands, backgrounds and practices through the experience of your own pilgrimage. This will mean personal growth as well as in inter-cultural awareness and learning.*
- 5. You will grow in your ability to navigate an online environment, use online resources, and work independently.*

Required Materials

Many of the required materials for this course will be located in the BlackBoard Content link or via Moravian College ebooks. However, there are also resources that I ask you to locate on your own. I have NOT purchased these through the college bookstore because you probably can find

them more inexpensively on your own (through Netflix, local libraries, etc.). By the first day of class, please make sure that you have purchased, borrowed, or otherwise gotten ahold of:

1. The memoir by Strayed, Cheryl. Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail. Vintage. 2013. This is available as an ebook, and in hard copy.

2. Thich Nhat Hanh, Happiness: Essential Mindfulness Practices (Parallax Press, 2009). This is available for as little as \$7 through amazon used books and also is available in Kindle edition.

3. Lynch, Gordon. Understanding Theology and Popular Culture (on reserve in Reeve's library; please make your own copy of the required chapters from this book)

Other course resources are listed according to the day they are required. You will access them through links on Blackboard, or through Reeve's ebrary. In addition, other films are required, both of which are available through Youtube or Kanopy (the library film database).

Unit One

Week 1: Jan. 18 (We will start on Sunday night online!) – Jan. 23

First Synchronous Meeting; Introductory Readings and Assignment

On Sunday evening, Jan. 18, at 7 PM, we will have our first synchronous class meeting online. Our purpose will be to get everyone on board by introducing our course and meeting one another. You should have completed the Photo Booth assignment you received in the course letter, *and* responded to viewing your classmates' and prof's video intros in the Blackboard Discussion Board BEFORE we meet!

On this Sunday evening as the semester prepares to roll out, you will be introduced to the course, will introduce yourself to one another, and will hear the professor explain the content and process of our class. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about what we are doing, the online format of this course, course requirements and objectives, etc.

Please be on time; plan on logging on by 6:50 PM, about 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled time so that you have time to deal with any problems that may occur as you access this for the first time.

Overall, for this week, plan for the following this week: write the blocks into your weekly calendar NOW:

--1 hour for our synchronous meeting;

--4 hours for reading;

--1.5 hours for film viewing; (accomplish these tasks by day 3 of our first week);

--3+ hours for the completion of your writing assignment (make sure that you start your writing no later than day 4; give yourself 2-3 days to complete your assignment, working on pieces of it each time, and reserving time at the end for

re-writing, and polishing your writing).

This is approximately the amount of time you will need to schedule each week for your work in this course. Having a calendar and writing these working blocks into your time each week is a must if you are to stay on track with this course. I suggest you familiarize yourselves with and use google calendar. This is what I use to do my best to keep my life in order! 😊

Read: Lynch, Gordon. *Understanding Theology and Popular Culture*. Chapters One and Two. "What is Popular Culture?" and "Why Should Theologians and Scholars of Religion Study Popular Culture?" (Please locate this source on reserve in Reeve's Library, make your own copy, and return the original to reserve for others to use, or borrow through interlibrary loan, or purchase your own copy.)

View: Estevo, *The Way*. (Please access this film either at home or at school through the link posted in BB documents.)

Write: Please see the writing assignment for today below.

In a word document, please follow the instructions to complete your first writing assignment. After you read Lynch, go back and respond to the following questions:

1. Define the following terms (bullet points are acceptable), using a few sentences for each term:

popular culture

high culture

avant-garde culture

folk culture

dominant/mass culture

2. Write two short paragraphs to each of the questions below:

How easy is it to define these terms, especially the term "popular"? What are the complexities involved in trying to define these terms, according to Lynch? What is the point of studying popular culture? Is it just "a vacation" from more serious academic ventures? (two paragraphs)

What are "the big questions" that are raised with the study of popular culture?

What are at least two examples of "religion functioning in everyday life" and what do you make of these examples?

Describe functionalist, existential/hermeneutical and transcendent functions of religion. Write at least three or four additional sentences in which you creatively and critically respond to these different functions. What do you make of them?

3. Taking this Further:

Use all this material above to write a two-page, double-spaced analysis of *The Way*. How might a scholar/theologian of popular culture respond to and analyze this film? What tools and methods from Lynch might s/he use and why? As an artifact of the intersection of religion and popular culture, what is significant, problematic or intriguing about this film?

***Drop Your Assignment in the BB Drop box link by Saturday, noon (Jan. 24)
Please be aware that BB records the time you drop your assignment – don't be late!***

Week 2: Jan. 26 -- 30

Exploring the Connections between Theology and Culture

This week we continue to explore the intersections between theology and culture, and as well continue our preliminary exploration of pilgrimage. You will be working your way through a diverse set of short readings that have been collected to spur your thinking and imagination, and raise questions for you.

Files posted in BB Course Content C for this week that you will need to access:

- "A Walking Pilgrimage Across Spain to Santiago De Compostela"
- "After Modernity: Space, Place and the Gospel"
- "El Camino Speaks"
- "Finding the Kindness of Strangers in Walks across America"
- "Hiking Through History"
- "Pilgrimage Growth in the Modern World"
- "Pilgrimage: Toward an Ecumenical Understanding"
- "Redemption Road"
- "To Be a Pilgrim"

- A. For your work this week, first read the selection by Iain Wallace, "After Modernity: Space, Place and the Gospel." Next, go to our Discussion Board and see the thread about this work I have posted there. Read it

carefully and think about it. Next, write 2 paragraphs in response to the prompts below:

- Why does Wallace begin with the narratives about the Tower of Babel and the Good Samaritan from the Bible? What insights from these narratives inform the realities of postmodernism and globalization?
- What is the "Anthropocene" and why is this term significant (read carefully to see how Wallace defines this term and why it is so important)?
- What post-modern dilemmas does he discuss (especially the 3 forms of "secular religion")?
- What is the role of religion/religious communities in a post-modern era?

B. Write a 3 double-spaced page paper in response to the selection of short writings about pilgrimage. Make sure that you respond substantively to each of the prompts below.

--First, focus on the article, "Pilgrimage Growth in the Modern World." Write a well-developed paragraph that summarizes at least four main themes from this article about the changing nature of pilgrimage in the modern world, and why it is a growing phenomenon.

--Then turn to the other articles. Briefly, what did you learn from each of them? Three sentences or more about each of five different articles will do.

--In the rest of your paper, think about the relationship between "pilgrimage" and "post-modernity" as explored by Wallace. What are the connections? How does post-modernity impact the nature and practice of pilgrimage, do you think? How does the category of pilgrimage help people to make sense of living in a post-modern world? This section of your paper should be about 2-3 well-written paragraphs. Add these three pages to the writing assignment about Wallace above.

-- This week you will be submitting 2 different writing assignments; eventually I will ask you to post your paragraphs about Wallace to our Discussion Board, but for now, include both A. and B. in your submission to the assignment link Give yourself plenty of time to work through this assignment -- don't do it all at once!

Submit assignments A and B in the BB drop box link by Saturday noon, Jan. 31

Week 3: Feb. 2 – 6

Early Anthropological Investigations of Pilgrimage

Second Synchronous Class: Thursday, Feb. 5, 6 PM

- Make sure you have logged on and are ready to go by 5:50 PM; our purpose for this synchronous meeting is twofold: a) we will talk about how well you did understanding and applying Wallace's argument about postmodernity and culture; and b) you'll be prepared for our first in depth theoretical study of pilgrimage, by the Turners.

This week's reading will introduce you to a classic anthropological investigation of the phenomenon of pilgrimage with the selection from Victor and Edith Turner. Contemporary scholars of pilgrimage use this work as a foundation for investigation and also regularly critique this analysis. Be aware of the way in which the Turners are drawing on anthropological tools for their analysis. In contrast to this theoretical reading, your second reading selection is to begin a very recent memoir of one woman's experience: this is the best seller, *Wild*, by Cheryl Strayed.

For your reading and writing assignment this, please do the following:

Read: The selection from Victor Turner and Edith Turner, *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978), "Chapter One: Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon," and "Chapter Seven: Conclusions" pp 1-39, 231-241. **This is posted for you in BB Course Content** Complete this reading no later than Tuesday of this week.

Important Note: We will use our synchronous class to discuss the Turner reading and the questions posed below for your writing!

Also read: The first 50 pages of Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*. Complete this no later than Thursday.

Writing:

Respond to the following questions below:

1. What do the Turners mean by describing pilgrimage as "exteriorized mysticism"? (p. 7) Describe the following aspects of pilgrimage: its "initiatory quality", as "a movement of the heart", as "liberation from profane social structures", as "crusade or jihad" as a "ritual of affliction", as an experience of "cure" or "communitas". (about 3 well-developed paragraphs).
2. What do the Turners mean by this statement on p. 19? We must ". . . examine the synchronic connections between economic, political, legal, religious, social

and ecological factors, and analyze them in terms of sociological theories." (you will need to think carefully about this quote, and dissect it). (1 paragraph)

3. Define what the Turners mean by the "liminoid" and "liminal" aspects of pilgrimage. Why are these important considerations for our study of pilgrimage? Give examples of each type. (2 well developed paragraphs)

4. The Turners describe four main "types" of pilgrimage-- what are they? (one or two sentences for each "type"). Then write 2 pages in which you think about a fifth "type" of pilgrimage -- "Postmodern pilgrimage" (use the material you have been exposed to about the nature of post-modernity to think about just would comprise this fifth model; this takes you beyond the analysis provided by the Turners). Use the reading you have done in Strayed's *Wild* as an example. What features of Cheryl's "pilgrimage" could become part of this fifth "type" of pilgrimage? What would distinguish it, in contrast to the other types? How is "postmodern pilgrimage" a continuity of the earlier types? (your response to this final question, #4, should be about 2 pages total in length; you will need to use your own good creative and critical thinking to imagine this "5th type" -- you won't find it outlined specifically in our materials! Be imaginative as you think about Strayed's experience and how it relates to pilgrimage!)

Drop your assignment to the BB Drop Box by noon Saturday, Feb. 7

Week 4: Feb. 9 -- 13

The Role of the Natural World in Pilgrimage

Today's assignments will have you continuing your reading in Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*, plus studying some theoretical material that will help you to probe this particular "pilgrimage story" more deeply.

Please also note that you are assigned to have a "google hangout" with another class member and create an assignment together that you submit to the professor!

Read: Strayed, pp 50 -- 115

also read: Lynn Ross-Bryant, *Pilgrimage to the National Parks: Religion and Nature in the United States*, (New York: Routledge, 2013) "Epilogue: Pilgrimage and the Future of the National Parks", pp. 224-250. (Available in BB Course Content)

Writing Assignment: #'s 1-5 focus on the material from Ross-Bryant; # 6 invites

synthesis with Strayed's memoir.

1. Write one paragraph in which you analyze the meaning of this quote from Ross-Bryant on page 225: "Pilgrims to national parks in this period of transformation, might experience a disconnect -- a "gap" as Kathleen Stewart puts it, 'in the myth of the gist of things.'" She suggests that this gap may be found in "a space on the side of the road," that is, a non-homogenizing space where there is room to maneuver and try out ways of being in the world that do not fit whatever narrative one lives in. Perhaps surprisingly, national parks may be becoming just such places."
2. Ross-Bryant writes that according to Botkin, we must ". . . confront the very assumptions that have dominated perceptions of nature for a very long time." What are those assumptions about nature and the relationship between human beings and nature that must be confronted? What does Botkin mean by the term "biosphere" and how is that term a part of the way he responds to his own demand above? Give two examples of national park policies that reflect this changing perspective. (about 2 paragraphs)
3. On p. 234, Ross-Bryant writes, "The possibility of pilgrims recognizing -- or discovering -- their own stories in the parks is part of living in the gaps." Summarize two stories in this chapter that represent such possibility. (2 short paragraphs)
4. Why is the "trail of the Cedars walk" emblematic of this changing nature of pilgrimage in the national parks?
5. What role does "nationalism" play in all this?
6. Create a bullet list of at least 5 bullets that demonstrate links between issues you have addressed in your writing today thus far, and episodes/insight/awareness from Cheryl Strayed's "pilgrimage". Be very specific with respect to the material you use from Strayed. Make sure to submit your written assignment into the link below.
7. Have a "google hangout" for 45 minutes with another class member during the week, before you submit this week's writing assignment. Review a) your early discussion board thread about the material from Ian Wallace on post-modernity. Then walk each other through the work you have done this. Create a google doc together in which you respond to the following questions:
 - a) what stands out for you at the end of these first weeks of our class?
 - b) what concerns do you have about how all our study is going? Would you like anything to be different? Do you need any additional help or support?
 - c) What questions do you now have about pilgrimage? Can you imagine yourself going on a pilgrimage? What "type" would it be, and why? What reason

might you have to embark upon such an experience? Compare and contrast where you each find yourself at this early juncture of our course.

--Send your google doc (1-2 pages) to the prof via email by midnight on Sunday, Feb. 15.

--Submit your writing for #s 1-6 to the BB assignment link by Saturday noon, Feb. 14.

Week 5: Feb. 16 – 20 First Major Course Paper Due

Third Synchronous Class: Thursday, Feb. 19, 6 PM (Make sure you have logged in and are ready to go by 5:50 PM; we will use our time together to discuss and respond to any questions you have about writing your first major course paper that is due on this coming Saturday.)

Wild and The Way: Differences between Religious and Secular Pilgrimage? We will use our synchronous class to have a discussion about any questions you have regarding your application of various readings, especially Turner, and your use of them to interpret and analyze *Wild and The Way*.

This week's assignment is to finish your reading of *Wild*, and complete your first substantive paper for our course. We will be wrapping up our preliminary theoretical and narrative study of pilgrimage.

1. Finish reading Strayed's *Wild* in its entirety. You may also wish to return to *The Way* and view parts of it again.
2. You will write your first 6-7 double-spaced page paper for our course, using the prompt below:

In this six-to-seven page paper, compare and contrast *The Way* and *Wild*, as examples of pilgrimage in the post-modern world.

--Draw upon the Turners' analysis of pilgrimage to help you identify various characteristics of these pilgrimages that "fit" within the Turnerian model; discuss also two aspects of these "pilgrimages" that you think do not fit the model.

--Draw upon at least 3 other readings from our course thus far to help you dive into and dissect what is going on in these pilgrimage narratives, focusing on specific episodes, activities or insights. Make sure that you cite correctly (internal citation of course documents is sufficient).

--Draw additionally upon Gordon Lynch's analysis to address the question: why should theologians and scholars of religion and culture study pilgrimage? How would you describe the relationship between religion/theology and culture in these two examples? Return to the work of Ian Wallace to reflect on this

question: What do these two pilgrimages reveal to you about the nature of post-modern reality?

--Finally, take time to personally and mindfully reflect on these narratives in comparison and contrast with your own life's searching. What is striking, important, troubling, inspiring to you about these narratives, and why? In other words, use this material to think about the nature of spiritual searching/journey in your own life. Where do you find yourself in that journey at this moment of time, and what do you make of that location? (With respect to this last bullet, your grade will be based on the degree to which you demonstrate serious thinking, not on the specifics of your answer to the questions herein).

Drop your paper into the Drop Box by Saturday noon, Feb. 21. With this paper, you have successfully completed the first Unit of our Course! Congratulations!

Unit Two

Week 6: Feb. 23 – Feb. 27

Building a More Complex Theory/Understanding of Pilgrimage; Exploring The Hajj

As we begin Week Six, our focus on religion/theology, culture and pilgrimage will begin to broaden, as well as move more directly to the interior. We will broaden our investigation by looking at additional examples of pilgrimage from diverse religious traditions of the world. To that end, this week you will view a documentary about "The Hajj", and another about a Buddhist pilgrimage on an island of Japan; you also will explore many other religious and secular examples of pilgrimage. We will simultaneously move to a more interior examination, as each of you begins to think about, design and declare your intentions regarding the pilgrimages each of you intends to embark upon as your final project of this course.

For this week, **Read:**

John Eade and Michael J. Sallnow, "Introduction," in *Contesting the Sacred: The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage* (New York: Routledge, 1991). (Please find this in our BB course content)

Robert R. Bianchi, *Islamic Globalization : Pilgrimage, Capitalism, Democracy, And Diplomacy* (World Scientific Publishing Co: 2013). (find the link in Blackboard)

Chapter I: Pilgrimage and Religious Travel --together with the film on the Hajj.
Also Chapter 3: "The Contemporary Hajj"

1. **View:** *Inside Mecca National Geographic* (link in BB Course Documents)

2. **Also View:** *Walking Pilgrims (Arukihenro)*, Documentary Educational Resources, Tommy Mendel, 2006 (link in BB Course Documents)
3. **Write:**
 1. Today we will return to the definition and analysis of pilgrimage, and think about the way that Eade and Sallnow challenge and expand upon the analysis we read last week from Victor and Edith Turner. Begin on p. 2, where they describe "the essential heterogeneity of the pilgrimage process." Later, on p. 5 they describe their intention to develop ". . . a view of pilgrimage not merely as a field of social relations but also as a realm of competing discourses." Write a well-developed paragraph in which you unpack these claims -- what do they mean? Just how is pilgrimage "heterogenous"? Provide a good example from their writing about the way in which a particular pilgrimage may present conflicting discourses.
 2. What do Eade and Sallnow mean by "the dialectic between bodily suffering voluntarily inflicted or endured and bodily suffering miraculously relieved and cured" -- as features of pilgrimage? (p. 21) Describe these two conflicting ways of making meaning, and offer examples (one well-developed paragraph; if you wish to draw upon the example from chapter one, please do!)
 3. Write a 3 page paper in which you focus on both the films for today and our readings. First, why did each of the three individuals undertake the Hajj? How do their experiences and interpretations of this pilgrimage converge and differ? Compare and contrast your discussion of *The Hajj* with *Walking Pilgrims*. Draw upon at least three specific links between your analysis of these films and the claims made by Eade and Sallnow. How does the material from Bianchi add to and complicate your understanding and analysis of pilgrimage and the Hajj in particular? Make sure you include at least two specific references to Bianchi's argument. Lastly, provide your own creative and thoughtful personal response to all this. Where do you find yourself at this point in time regarding your study/reflection regarding pilgrimage? What stands out for you, and why?

Drop your assignment to the BB Drop Box link by noon on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Week 7: Mar. 2 -- 6

The Mindfulness of the Walking Pilgrim

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Happiness: Essential Mindfulness Practices* (Parallax Press, 2009), pp 1-38, 53-66. Also, choose two additional short readings from the last section of this book, "Relationship and Community Practices," to also read. (Remember, this is one of the resources that I have asked to you locate and access on your own, preferably by

purchasing.)

Your assignment for this week is somewhat different, and invites you more into the experiential nature of pilgrimage. This is a sort of introduction to the day-long pilgrimage experience later in our semester.

For this week, first read the selections on mindfulness and on walking meditation from Buddhist Writer, Activist and Monk, Thich Nhat Hanh. I would recommend that you find a comfortable place to read these quietly and thoughtfully over the first few days of this week. Then, you are going to go for a contemplative walk yourself. If you wish, you may undertake this with a friend from our class, but your walk should be mostly in silence. Your walk should last for 2 hours minimum. Do your best to be mindful of your surroundings, and what you experience in your own interior world. Be conscious of "massaging the earth" with your feet, as Thich Nhat Hanh says.

After your walk, write a 3 page descriptive essay in which you describe the experience of your walk. What happened? Where did you go? What did you experience, what did you notice, how was this practice of mindfulness for you? What strikes you about it? How would you "fit" this experience with the way you generally live your life from day to day? Respond to the questions above with 2 double-spaced pages.

Then, in addition to your first two pages, write 1-2 more pages, in which you return to the writings from Thich Nhat Hanh. How does he define "mindfulness" and "meditative walking"? Why are they important, in his eyes? What do you make of this spiritual practice that is deeply connected to the experience of pilgrimage, and the life of a pilgrim?

--Submit your work to the BB assignment link by noon on **Saturday, Mar. 7**.
--At the same time, submit what you think is your best paragraph to the BB Discussion Board on this theme, no later than noon on **Saturday, Mar. 7**. During Spring break, return to the BB Discussion Board and comment AT LEAST on one of your classmate's musings about this experience and reading by **Tuesday** of spring break. Don't simply say "I liked it"; give it some real thought and attention. Feel free to respond to various threads and get a real discussion going about where we are with this theme, thinking through theology and culture, and our own lives. Your grade will reflect all these various activities/writing from this week.

Week 8: Mar. 9 – 13: Spring Break!!

Week 9: Mar. 16 – 23

Further expansion of our pilgrimage perspective; Shikoku, internal and external challenges

This week we continue to broaden (and also deepen) our understanding of pilgrimage, culture, religion/theology and our post-modern reality, through three very different short readings, an amateur documentary about a modern-day pilgrimage to the Shikoku temples, and our own musings and reflection.

Read:

Arthur I. Waskow, "A Time to Renew: The Truthfulness of the Biblical Religious Traditions in Shaping a Livable Post-Modern Society" (in BB course content)

Ian Reader, "Chapter Three: Religious Authorities and the Promotion of Pilgrimages," *Routledge Studies in Religion, Travel and Tourism: Pilgrimage in the Marketplace* (New York: Routledge, 2013), pp 61-82 (e-book available through **Moravian College e-books; link in Blackboard**).

Elizabeth Weiss Ozorack, "Chapter Three: The View from the Edge: Pilgrimage and Transformation," in Ed. William H. Swatos, Jr., *On the Road to Being There: Studies in Pilgrimage and Tourism in Late Modernity* (**this is a Moravian College e-book**; the link is in BB Course Documents).

View:

The 88 Sacred Temples of Shikoku, Japan, Parts I, II and III. Dustin Stolen, filmmaker. (each of the three parts of this amateur documentary is about 8 minutes long; make sure to see every part; links in BB Course Documents)

Write: First, compose one well-written paragraph for each of our three readings, in which you trace the argument of each writer. What is the thrust of each of these selections? Finally, after these three paragraphs, write one more paragraph of comparison and contrast, with the best of your own creative and critical thinking. What connections do you make between these selections? How are they different? What stands out for you about them, and why? How if at all do their claims conflict with one another?

Second, Write a two-page reflection of the amateur documentary you saw. Connect the themes of this documentary to at least one issue, question or

claim in each of the three articles you read for today. How is your understanding of pilgrimage growing and changing? **Lastly**, in these same two pages, write at least one or two paragraphs about what you are thinking regarding your own one-day pilgrimage. Do you have any ideas yet about what you will do and why? Write about three questions, dynamics or themes of pilgrimage that stand out for you personally as important to incorporate into your own pilgrimage experience next week.

Submit your writing assignment to the BB Drop Box link by noon on Saturday, Mar. 21.

Week 10: Mar. 23 – 27

Fourth Synchronous Class Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 6 PM. Make sure that you log on by about 5:50 pm. We will use our synchronous class to catch up and especially compare notes and discuss questions related to the upcoming final project for the course, your individual pilgrimage experiences!

This week's reading will have you comparing and contrasting diverse stories and analyses of very different pilgrimage experiences. All your resources today may be found through Moravian College's Reeves Library ebooks.

Read: Ed., William Swatos Jr., "Preface", in **On the road to being there: studies in pilgrimage and tourism in late modernity (Moravian College e-book; link in BB Course Documents).**

After reading Swatos' preface, choose one additional chapter in this book to also read and analyze. The choice is up to you -- I suggest that you choose a chapter that will help you to in some way think through further your own choice/plan for your pilgrimage this semester.

Also read: Nancy Louise Frey, **Pilgrim Stories: on and off the road to Santiago (Moravian College e-book; link in BB documents)** In this work above, read Frey's introduction, then choose one chapter/story to read and investigate for yourself, again, choosing something that in some way will help you with your thinking about your own pilgrimage.

Write:

One: Swatos writes, "My core claim is that there are hundreds, perhaps even thousands of 'under the radar' pilgrimage events that take place in religions all

the time" (p. viii) What is "movement pilgrimage" and how does the chapter you chose to explore illustrate it? What is the role of travel in religion and the role of religion in travel? Describe how your author analyzes the category of pilgrimage in the particular chapter of Swatos' book you chose to explore. What new understandings, themes and dynamics of pilgrimage does this chapter bring to light? (about 1.5 pages)

Two: Compare and contrast this above with Frey's writing from **Pilgrim Stories**. Write 1.5 pages in this second part of your writing for today that briefly summarizes your story, then address key themes in comparison and/or contrast with Swatos.

Three: Write one more page in which you declare your intentions regarding your own pilgrimage plan. For now, concentrate on the overall shape you intend. What will your pilgrimage "look like?" What kind of movement will it entail? What will be its topography? What twelve-hour period do you intend to dedicate to it? Will it have a particular destination? What is its starting point? Does it involve anyone else besides you?

Drop your Writing Assignment into the Drop Box by noon on Saturday, Mar. 28.

Week 11: Mar. 30 – April 3

In today's reading you will be introduced to the work of another recent study of pilgrimage. These readings in particular focus on the "secular" nature of post-modern pilgrimage. This week I also will be returning to you some feedback regarding your first attempt last week to develop your own pilgrimage plan. Look for my notes back to you; I may very well make some suggestions about refining or further explaining your initial thoughts, and in that case in addition to your writing below, I may also ask you to do a second draft of your 1 page reflection regarding your own pilgrimage plan.

Please note that your work this week also involves you having a Google hangout with a colleague from class, and completing a short writing assignment together. Make a plan for that hangout now!

Read: Eds., Simon Coleman and John Eade, **Reframing Pilgrimage: Cultures in Motion (Moravian College e-book)**. Read the Introduction, "Reframing Pilgrimage"; then choose one additional chapter from this book that you wish to explore.

Also read: Return to a book we dipped into earlier this semester, *On the Road to*

Being There, and re-read "Chapter Three: The View from the Edge: Pilgrimage and Transformation" by Elizabeth Weiss Ozorack (see link in BB Course documents)

Write:

One: Write 2 paragraphs regarding the introduction to Reframing Pilgrimage, in which you discuss the ways that Coleman and Eade are responding to, expanding upon and disagreeing with various arguments that we read and thought about from our first studies in pilgrimage by Victor and Edith Turner. How do they think pilgrimage studies should be extended beyond the Turnerian frameworks?

Two: Write 1.5 pages in which you lay out the key investigation, methods and research results of the additional chapter from Coleman/Eade that you chose to explore. What does this additional chapter add to your understanding of pilgrimage?

Three: Write at least one more page in which you explore, from a more personal perspective, the insights from your reading of "The View from the Edge". How might you draw upon these same insights as you plan, reflect upon and ready yourself for your own pilgrimage next week?

Four: Have a 45 minute "google hangout" in which you discuss everything above with the same person you have been working with over the course of this class. Talk about what stands out for you, what you are looking forward to next week, what you feel hesitant about, and anything else of interest and concern. Send me an email in which you briefly summarize the "take-aways" from your conversation (one email per pair is sufficient). Your email should be about one page long. If you wish to do this through google docs, all the better! Do this by noon on Sat. April 4.

Drop your writing assignment into the BB Drop Box by noon on Saturday, April 4.

Week 12: April 6 – April 10

Today we will dip into one last recent book about the continuing expansion of pilgrimage studies. This book in particular focuses on the nature of "secular" forms of pilgrimage in the post-modern world. I believe it will provide you with additional frameworks and insights into thinking about, dissecting and reflecting upon your own pilgrimage coming up.

Read: Ed. Peter Jan Margry, *Shrines and Pilgrimages in the Modern World: New Itineraries into the Sacred* (Moravian College ebook; link in BB Course Documents)

First, read Margry's Introduction, "Secular Pilgrimage: A Contradiction in Terms?" (skim through the last part of this introduction, where Margry briefly outlines each of the chapters of this book: your skimming will help you to determine which particular chapter you wish to carefully read/study) Second, choose one additional chapter from this book to read and explore. Choose something that interests you, and that you think will further expand your understanding of pilgrimage.

Write:

One: In what way(s) does Margry contend that pilgrimage "is in need of a re-evaluation?" What is the particular focus of this book and how does that focus add to the discipline of pilgrimage studies? Return to our early study in Gordon Lynch and draw upon at least one insight from his study of religion and popular culture that you see pertaining to this book. How may we define the distinction between religious and secular forms of pilgrimage more carefully (or can we)? How does Margry define the terms "religion" and "pilgrimage" (about two pages)? What does this add to your ongoing thinking about the relationship between theology and culture, with pilgrimage as a case study?

Two: How are the themes from Margry's introduction illustrated in the chapter you chose to read? Make sure that you discuss movement, *communitas*, tourism, the secular and the religious in whatever chapter you chose to study for today. (about two pages)

Drop your writing assignment into the Drop Box by Saturday noon, April 11.

Unit Three: Our Pilgrimage Experiences

Week 13: April 13 – 17

In two-three pages, write an outline to frame your work for next week regarding your own pilgrimage. Your outline should include:

A. Bullet points regarding the physical nature of your pilgrimage: topography, mode of movement, beginning and end points, time frame, etc.

B. Your plan to research the nature of this particular pilgrimage: what is it all about? why this particular place/route? Why this destination? What type of pilgrimage is this? Your own design? A well-known pilgrimage route? Something else? What kind of research resources will help you analyze and understand what you are undertaking? Aim for at least 3-4 research resources that are specific to the pilgrimage you are planning.

C. Your plan of documentation (for the purpose of your ppt presentation/analysis): Photos (about 15-20); video (not more than 10 minutes total); scanned materials/research about pilgrimage site; etc.

D. The research materials from our course that you will use to analyze your experience (you should include 4 theoretical resources and may include up to 3 narrative/popular resources from the materials we have studied)

E. The beginning of a personal statement regarding the nature of the meaning of this experience in your own life -- for now this can be in bullet points.

F. Arrange for one more google hangout with a classmate, and spend 45 minutes "talking through" your pilgrimage plan with one another. Give each other feedback, encouragement and ideas about how to expand and deepen what you are thinking through further. Before you hand in your outline, include at least two additional paragraphs in which you reflect on this google conversation and what you gained from your dialogue with your classmate for your own planning and thinking.

Drop your assignment into the BB Drop Box by Saturday noon, April 18

Week 14: April 20 -- 24

Pilgrimages

During this week I will be available for students who wish to consult with me regarding their online oral presentations about their experiences this and next week.

Week 15: April 27 – May 1

Pilgrimage Experience/Analysis/Presentation

Synchronous classes this week for pilgrimage presentations – sign up!

During this week, students will spend their study hours thinking through their pilgrimage analysis, creating their ppt for our May 22 synchronous classes, which we hold once again "go-to-meeting" style. You also will begin writing your 6-7

page analysis, due on May 4 by midnight. There will be signups for synchronous classes in which you will present your ppt; by midnight on 5/4, you will submit both your ppt and your paper through the assignment link below (this will give you the chance to refine your ppt if the suggestion arises that this is important).

Your pilgrimage itself should involve no less than 12 active hours. You should plan on spending a good 6 -- 8 hours working on your analysis afterwards (before your presentation to the class).

Another note: Some students undertake very personal pilgrimage experiences. If yours necessitates confidentiality, please speak with me, and we will make accommodations accordingly.

I will be available and responding to email throughout this week. Please be in touch with me if you would like to schedule an individual meeting over google hangout or speak over the phone about your experience and your thoughts regarding analyzing/reflecting on your experience and creating your presentation. I encourage every student in the course to take advantage of meeting with me individually during this week at some point to plan, process and/or analyze your pilgrimage experience and project.

Re: our final synchronous classes: students will participate in one of a number of scheduled synchronous classes, in which they will have about 20 minutes to present their powerpoint presentation of their pilgrimage experience/analysis, and hear and respond to 3-4 other students as they present their projects. See the online google sign up sheet and select your time. This assignment link provides guidelines for you for the creation of your powerpoint.

Guidelines:

1. During your 20 minutes, you will present your ppt/presentation and also field questions and responses from your professor and classmates regarding your project. Practice your presentation and time it, so that you use your time accordingly, allowing at least 7 or so minutes for questions and response. **Important note regarding your presentation: DO NOT READ YOUR SLIDES!! Remember that an effective ppt is one that ACCOMPANIES whatever it is you wish to say. To that end, DO include the elements below, and have any additional notes/materials well organized, and easily accessible, to deliver your presentation. BE CREATIVE! AND BE RIGOROUS in your analysis!**

2. Your ppt/presentation should include the following:

a) Title page with your name and whatever title you give to this project; at the end, a works cited page that shows the primary source materials from our course that you have used to help you with your analysis, plus any outside materials you also may have utilized.

b) Background data on the particular pilgrimage you undertook, as well as some sort of statement regarding why you made this choice (citations for these resources should also be included in your works-cited page; 2-3 slides). You should have completed some outside research in order to gain some background knowledge on the site of your pilgrimage -- do this on your own.

c) visual evidence that takes us through your pilgrimage, from start to end (be thoughtful about just where your starting point begins, and how your ending point brings this to a conclusion!). The expectation for our class is that students will spend NO LESS than 12 consecutive hours on their pilgrimage. If you wish to take additional time, that is fine, but no less time. Your evidence should give good demonstration of the time and effort you spent in this endeavor. Your visual evidence also should give us a good idea of the content, meaning, unique aspects, and process of your pilgrimage. Include elements that matter, that are distinctive, that make a difference in some way. These will be the same elements you then analyze further. (no more than about 12-15 photos overall; or 10 minutes of video total)

d) other evidence, visual, textual, other: that helps demonstrates your analysis of this pilgrimage on 3 different levels:

1. theoretical: connect various aspects of this experience, the background and nature of this pilgrimage, the individual/collective experience of it, etc., with 4 different theoretical issues, questions, themes, dynamics we have learned about in our study. Make sure each of these theoretical connections represents a major thrust of at least one of our course resources. How do these theoretical materials help you to more deeply understand this experience? How do they help you to "situate" this pilgrimage within the discipline of pilgrimage studies? What key elements of this pilgrimage are worth study and analysis, and why? What does your analysis reveal about this experience? (about 1 slide for each theoretical connection)

2. narrative: connect various aspects of this experience to at least 2 narrative pilgrimage threads you have viewed or read. Compare and/or contrast your experience with these other narrative threads. How does learning about the pilgrimage experiences of others help you to more deeply understand, enter into

and analyze this experience? (about 1 slide for each narrative connection)

3. spiritual: From all the different interpretations/experiences of spiritual seeking that we have studied over the past two weeks, relate your own interior/exterior searching through this experience. What did you learn, or become more deeply aware of by way of all this? What is your assessment of the phenomenon of post-modern pilgrimage? Did you find this worth doing? Why or why not? Do you have any new insights about yourself, your life, your place in the world? Was anything confirmed or challenged for you? (2 to 3 slides or so)

e) By the end of the day, May 4, you will submit a 6 page paper that analytically and narratively documents numbers 1-3 above. You may use notes from this paper to help you deliver your ppt presentation (but you may NOT read your paper as part of your ppt presentation!). Please also submit your paper to the link below.