

Religion 225
Spring 2016
Pilgrimage: Searching for God in a
(Post)modern World (M3)

Instructor: Kelly Denton-Borhaug
Assoc. Professor of Religion
Office: Comenius 109
Phone: 610-625-7104
Email: denton-borhaugk@moravian.edu

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>

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 8 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 put the dates of our synchronous classes into your personal calendar!

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. 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 postmodern 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 to embark on their own individual experience of 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 **8 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 BB Discussion Forum and 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). We will use Discussion Board to help us sort through the themes, questions and issues about pilgrimage, our lives and the world that are raised for our thinking! You also will have accompanying writing assignments to submit to BB assignment links 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 these assignments in our BB course information link; this will help you know how to approach these tasks. 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. Most weeks you have a 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. Our Discussion Board also is in our BB link. 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, "Blue Jeans" that we will use for our synchronous classes. Office hours will be some time on Friday and/or 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 Discussion Board and 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. It also includes your leadership with Discussion Board!
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, BlueJeans 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 Moravian College 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 the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

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.*

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.

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. Please check with the college bookstore and ALSO look further 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. Samuel Sánchez y Sánchez and Annie Hesp, *The Camino de Santiago in the 21st Century: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Global Views*. New York: Routledge, 2016. (You will find that purchasing this as an e-book will be much less expensive!)

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).

Required Extra-Class Event: Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 pm, Prosser Auditorium: The Moravian College 9th Peace and Justice Scholar in Residence Keynote Address: Claude Anshin Thomas, Vietnam Veteran, Buddhist Monk and Peace Activist
All students are required to attend this event; please make appropriate plans with your workplace and/or sports team now. If you have a conflict with another class, please respectfully request that your professor give you permission to attend this event. We will do our best to stream this event as well for those off-campus.

Unit One

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

First Synchronous Meeting; Introductory Readings and Assignment

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 19, at 5 PM, we will have our first synchronous class meeting online. Please log on by 4:50 to give yourself time with any unexpected issues with our Blue Jeans application. Our purpose will be to get everyone on board by introducing our course and meeting one another.

On this Tuesday 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.

Check your email; I will be sending you the Blue Jeans link in advance; you will find

that it is very easy to use this application!

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

--1 hour for our synchronous meeting;
--3 hours for reading;
--1.5 hours for film viewing; (accomplish these tasks by day 3 of our first week);
--2+ hours for the completion of your Discussion Board and writing assignment
(Note that you have 2 writing assignments -- one for Discussion Board, and one for BB assignments; please check the due dates below. I expect more formal and polished writing for our BB assignments).

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: □Kelton Cobb, “Theological Tools” in *The Blackwell Guide to Theology and Popular Culture*. (Please find the scan for this chapter in BB course Documents).

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

Writing Assignment: Please see the writing assignment for this week below (#s 1 and 2).

In a word document, please follow the instructions to complete your first writing assignment.

1. Define the following terms (bullet points are acceptable), a few sentences for each term, capturing not only what the term refers to, but why Cobb finds it significant as a “tool” to help us think about and analyze culture:

Ultimate Concern

The Holy

Ontological and Moral Faith

Revelation and Ecstasy

Religious Symbols

Myth

Liminality

Religion (1,2 and 3)

2. Discussion Board:

Write an initial 300 word response in our Discussion Board to the following prompt, no later than Thurs. noon of this week:

- a. by Thurs., for your first post, react to your viewing of *The Way* as the first “pilgrimage experience” you are learning about. What did you learn about pilgrimage from viewing this film? What stood out to you about it? What questions were raised for you?
- b. When you return to the Discussion Board later in the week, respond to the following: How do we all see our film for this week, *The Way*, through the lens of our reading about “theological tools” that help us to understand and interpret culture? Analyze at least 3 of the tools from Cobb in terms of the way they help you to interpret the significance of *The Way* and pilgrimage experiences in general.
- c. Before Saturday noon, return to the Discussion Board several times – let’s get into further discussion about our film, pilgrimage, the questions we have, etc! Your Discussion Board Grade for each week will be determined by BOTH your initial post, and your energetic, imaginative and thoughtful discussion with others! **The Discussion Board Closes on Saturday at noon!**

--

- A. Your first Discussion Board post is due by Thurs., noon of this week! Our Forum will close on Sunday noon. This will give you about 3 days to go back, respond also to b. above, see what others have initially posted, and get into conversation with them.**
- B. Drop Your Writing Assignment (for #s 1 and 2 above) 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. 25 -- 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 online or posted in BB Course Content C for this week that you will need to access:

- “A Walking Pilgrimage Across Spain to Santiago De Compostela”
- “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”
- “The People’s Pilgrimage” <http://peoplespilgrimage.org/about.html>
- “Yeb Saño: Pilgrimage to Paris from Rome for Cop 21”
http://www.democracynow.org/2015/12/1/filipino_climate_artist_on_cop_21

A. Discussion Board

After you read each of these very short articles about diverse experiences and perspectives on pilgrimage, choose **one** that you will summarize and evaluate for your first Discussion Board Posting this week. *Make sure that you write about articles that haven’t already been chosen by others, until all the articles have been addressed this week!*

Between Thursday and Friday, return to our Discussion Board and respond to others with your own thinking, questions, impressions. . . The Discussion board Closes Saturday at noon!

B. Writing Assignment for BB Assignment Link

Every class member will read “Pilgrimage Growth in the Modern World.” In about 400 - 500 words, 1) SUMMARIZE at least four main themes from “Pilgrimage in the Modern World” about the changing nature of pilgrimage in the modern world, and why it is a growing phenomenon. 2) Return to the insights from your reading of Cobb, and address the key points as they relate to your study of this week’s short articles. 3) At the end of this writing, be sure to include your own original and creative reactions to what you have studied for this week.

- A. Discussion Board: initial posting due by Wed noon; Discussion Forum closes on Saturday at noon.
- B. Submit Writing Assignment in the BB drop box link by Saturday noon, Jan. 31

Week 3: Feb. 1 – 6

Early Anthropological Investigations of Pilgrimage

Second Synchronous Class: Tuesday, Feb. 2; 6 PM: Note! We need to meet one hour later than our usual time!

- Make sure you have logged on and are ready to go by 5:50 PM; our purpose for this synchronous meeting is twofold: a) you’ll be prepared for our first in depth theoretical study of pilgrimage, by the Turners and b) we will take time to discuss our initial foray into Cheryl Strayed’s memoir, *Wild*.

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 those of you who read Strayed over break, that means you are ahead of the game!*

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 1-17, only! (The posting is longer than this, but you only are responsible for very carefully reading these 17 pages) **This is posted for you in BB Course Content** Complete this reading no later than Tuesday of this week.

--Maryjane Dunn, "Historical and Modern Signs of 'Real' Pilgrims on the Road to Santiago de Compostela" *The Camino de Santiago in the 21st Century*.

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.

Discussion Board Only this week!

You have two 300 word paragraphs to submit this week, plus additional discussion with your peers:

- A) **By Wed. Noon, 300 words:** The Turners write about the way that anthropologists describe "a field of investigation(s)" in which they immerse themselves in to try to better understand pilgrimage. Write about at least two different methods of investigation they describe – not repeating others from your classmates! What may be achieved by these different methods of exploration? *Note: In order to respond to this, you will find it helpful also*

to read the “summary” and the end of the selected pages in BB from this resource. “Anthropologists have learned that it is necessary to study **the total field** of a great ceremony, the nonritual factors surrounding it, as well as the liturgical or symbolic action.” (37)

- B) **By Saturday Noon, 300 words:** What have been the “historical signs” of “a real pilgrim,” according to Dunn, and how have these changed and why in modern times? What if any are the signs and experiences described by Cheryl Strayed that might make her a “pilgrim”?
- C) **By Saturday, Noon – Please be in discussion with your classmates about their posts this week. What questions, insights, responses are raised for you about pilgrimage??** Let’s get a discussion going with each other!

No Writing assignment to the BB Drop Box this week! See above for deadlines this week with our Discussion Forum. The Forum will close on Saturday at noon.

Week 4: Feb. 8 -- 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 1-4 focus on the material from Ross-Bryant; Due to BB Assignment Link by Wed., noon.

I will assign pairs for your “Google Hangout” this week; plan on spending at least 45 minutes with your partner; you will together create a google doc that you email to the prof by Saturday, noon.

Questions for Writing Assignment

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." What does Ross-Bryant mean with this quote, and what is its significance for our study?

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 of "living in the gaps". Be specific! (2 short paragraphs)

4. Why is the "trail of the Cedars walk" emblematic of this changing nature of pilgrimage in the national parks? One paragraph. **Due to BB Assignment Link by Wed. noon**

Questions for Google Hangout and Google Doc; you will need to arrange for a time to meet, talk and comprise this assignment.

5. Create a bullet list of at least 5 bullets that demonstrate links between issues you have addressed in your writing thus far this week, and episodes/insight/awareness from Cheryl Strayed's "pilgrimage". This means that you'll need to draw on the writing assignment you compiled for Wed., discuss it with each other, and talk further about your reading of Strayed. Be very specific with respect to the material you use from Strayed (include page numbers as well as brief descriptions of events/episodes). Please include this in your google doc.

6. In addition, in your google doc, please respond to the following questions with your notes from your conversation about the following questions below:

- 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.

A. BB Writing Assignment due by Wed. noon to BB link.

B. Send your google doc (1-2 pages) to the prof via email by Saturday, noon.

Week 5: Feb. 15 – 20 First Major Course Paper Due

***Wild* and *The Way*: Differences between Religious and Secular Pilgrimage**

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 5 page double-spaced page paper** for our course, using the prompt below. Please include a Title, a Works Cited Page, and also please remember that whenever you borrow ideas or directly quote, you **MUST CITE** your resources! Internal citation is fine, using either APA or MLA. Please consult the OWL Purdue website for help if you do not understand how to properly cite your work.

In your paper, compare and contrast *The Way* and *Wild*, as examples of pilgrimage in the postmodern world. In our paper, make sure that you **specifically** respond to the various bullets below:

--How do the terms from the Turners' analysis of pilgrimage help you identify various characteristics of these pilgrimages? Draw upon at least two of the following terms: "liminoid"; "liminal"; "exteriorized mysticism"; pilgrimage's "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"; etc.

--What are the "signs" – both religious and nonreligious – that alert us to these experiences as "pilgrimages"? How do the signs differ in the two artifacts of pilgrimage that you are analyzing?

--Where does the natural world fit in? What is its role in these pilgrimages? Use Ross-Bryant to help you think this through.

--Draw additionally upon Kenneth Cobb'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? Where do the following terms fit in, if at all? **Ultimate Concern, The Holy, Ontological and Moral Faith, Revelation and Ecstasy, Religious Symbols, Myth, Liminality, Religion (1,2 and 3)**

--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 Assignment 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. 22 – Feb. 27

Building a More Complex Theory/Understanding of Pilgrimage; Exploring The Hajj; In addition to posing and exploring questions you may have, we also will address our first papers, google docs, and upcoming materials.

Monday, 2/22: 5 pm: Third Synchronous Class!!

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 psychic 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"; you also will explore 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:**

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

Read: Chapter 3: "The Contemporary Hajj" (This is in Part I: Pilgrimage and Religious Travel)

Also Read: John K. Moore Jr., "Two Religions on One Road to Santiago: Polyethnicity and Syncretism on the Camino. . ." *The Camino of Santiago in the 21st Century*

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

Discussion Board:

Initial Post Due Wed. noon of 500 Words: According to the film, why did each of the three individuals undertake the Hajj? How do their experiences and interpretations of this pilgrimage converge and differ? Second, how does the material from Bianchi add to and complicate your understanding and analysis of pilgrimage and the Hajj? Make sure you include at least two specific references to Bianchi's chapter. Avoid repetition with respect to your classmates' postings.

Second and additional postings between Wed. and Saturday, noon:

First, bring in the reading, "Two Religions on One Road to Santiago" – How is Islam portrayed in the Santiago pilgrimage? Just how is pilgrimage "a realm of competing discourses"? (137) How is pilgrimage "travel for transformation"? (139). Plan on posting at least 250 words.

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? Another 250 words.

First Discussion Board posting due by Wed. noon; the Forum this week closes by Sat. noon.

Week 7: Feb. 29 – Mar. 5

The Mindfulness of the Walking Pilgrim; The Shikoku Pilgrimage

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.)

View: *Walking Pilgrims (Arukihenro)*, Documentary Educational Resources, Tommy Mendel, 2006 (link in BB Course Documents)

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.

- 1) 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.

- 2) View the film for this week.
- 3) Next, 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.

Writing Assignment this week:

- 1) After your walk, write a 3 double-spaced page descriptive essay in which you describe the experience of your walk in connection with your reading from Thich Nhat Hanh. 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 does TNH 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?
- 2) Have a google hangout with your partner, and "talk through" what you wrote about in your writing assignment for this week. Decide together what your most important learnings and insights were from this experience, as well as any questions that were raised for you. Create at least one strong additional paragraph to add to your original writing assignment. --Submit your work to the BB assignment link by **Saturday, midnight.**

Week 8: Mar. 5 – 11: Spring Break!!

Discussion Board Forum that we began last week will close on Saturday noon of this week!

Week 9: Mar. 14 -- 19

Further expansion of our pilgrimage perspective; Climate Justice and Pilgrimage, 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, a video news report about a justice pilgrimage, 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)

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).

Samuel Sánchez y Sánchez, "Lost and Found: Material Culture and Personal Transformation on the Camino de Santiago," *The Camino of Santiago in the 21st Century*

View:

Filipino Climate Pilgrim and Artist

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/12/1/filipino_climate_artist_on_cop_21

Writing Assignment, Due on Wed., noon: **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 about the connections between pilgrimage, transformation and social justice. How do these connections reveal important insights regarding the role of pilgrimage in a post-modern society?

Discussion Board: By Friday noon, write a 350 word reflection that connects our readings with the news film/report you have seen from *Democracy Now* about the pilgrimage of Yeb and A.G. Saño. Why did the brothers undertake this pilgrimage to COP 21? Please remark very specifically on *two* connections between this news video and ideas/questions/issues in your reading. How is your understanding of pilgrimage growing and changing? **Lastly**, in your Discussion Board post, add some reflections regarding 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.

Make sure you take time between Friday and Sunday at noon to respond to and comment on your peers' postings. Discussion Board closes on Sunday at noon.

- A. Submit your writing assignment to the BB Drop Box link by noon on Wednesday.
- B. The Discussion Forum closes on Saturday at noon.

Week 10: Mar. 21 -- 26; *Thinking through more of the Internal Dynamics of Pilgrimage along the Camino of Santiago.*

This week we will go about our work slightly differently, so pay attention to this prompt! Each student will choose a different chapter in Nancy Louise Frey, *Pilgrim Stories: on and off the road to Santiago* (Moravian College e-book; link in BB documents) to read, summarize and respond to; and we all will have the chance to read and comment on one another's writing/work. In addition to your work on Frey, you also will be submitting your first ideas about your own pilgrimage plan, and submitting them to our BB assignment link.

So here's how we'll proceed. **First**, choose one chapter/story to read and investigate for yourself from Frey, again, choosing something that in some way will help you with your thinking about your own pilgrimage. Please post an initial post with your choice in Discussion Board; check out all the earlier ones to make sure that you haven't chosen something someone with an earlier post already has claimed. **Note! You may NOT choose a chapter that someone else already has written about!** *In about 400 words, summarize your chapter, and identify at least three elements that you find helpful, significant, or different from your own thinking about your planning with regard to your own upcoming pilgrimage.*

Your First Discussion Board Response is Due by Thurs. noon.

Third, by Saturday morning, return to the Discussion Board one last time, and insert a "comment" for one of your peers of about 175 words in which you discuss what they have written. In your comment, make sure you 1) have one substantive appreciative comment for your classmate's work, and 2) take one of their ideas further in some way. Please don't respond to a classmate who already has a comment from someone else. **This second Discussion Forum posting is due no later than Saturday, noon.**

ALSO: I am asking you to come with TWO SEPARATE ASSIGNMENTS FOR OUR SYNCHRONOUS CLASS NEXT TUESDAY, MARCH 29, AT 5 PM! *Note: Please make sure that you have approximately 2 hours for this class -- we likely will need that long! Also, please make sure that you are using the proper equipment (computer, headphones) so that we can see you, and so that we avoid feedback noise. Thank you!*

- 1) This first assignment should be quite easy. Go back and look over the writing and thinking that you did when we read about, saw a film and thought about the Hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Many of you raised such great questions in your writing. ***Come with 2 solid questions about our study of the Hajj on Tuesday! We will have a guest participant in our class, Dr. Arash Naraghi, who has made the Hajj. He will respond to***

our questions! We will give each class member a class to pose his/her questions and hear from Dr. Naraghi.

2) This second assignment will require more work on your part. **Begin working on a 3-4 minute presentation that you will make at our synchronous Class meeting on Tuesday, March 29, at 5 pm, regarding the following:** make notes for your presentation of ***about one to two double-spaced pages that you can consult as you make your presentation***, 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? How will you research your specific pilgrimage to find out more about it? What are your beginning thoughts about why you are making the specific choices regarding your pilgrimage? If you wish you may use bullet points to refer to for your brief presentation. *Be sure to visit the document I have posted in BB for the class that lists various choices and opportunities previous classes have made for this assignment . . .*

- A. The Discussion Forum will close on Saturday at noon.
- B. Be sure to have your written notes ready to go for your 3-4 minute presentation at our synchronous meeting next Tuesday!

Week 11: Mar. 28 – April 2

First thing this week: **Fourth Synchronous Class Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 29, 5 PM.** Make sure that you log on by about 4:50 pm. We will use our synchronous class to 1) catch up with each other; 2) pose our questions to Dr. Naraghi and have some discussion and 3) hear individual student oral reports on beginning pilgrimage plans the reading for this week (drawing from the notes you created for yourself as part of last week's work); 4) We also briefly at the end of class will discuss our assignment for this week, in which each student will write about a "Camino blog" and use their study of Ogden's chapter to analyze it.

Second thing this week: In this week's reading you will be introduced to the work of another recent study of pilgrimage. ***You can do this reading after our after our synchronous class.*** These readings in particular focus on the "secular" nature of postmodern pilgrimage. This week I also will be returning to you some feedback

regarding your brief presentation at our synchronous class meeting about 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.

Read: Christina Ogden, "Picturing the Camino de Santiago in Contemporary Pilgrimage Blogs," *The Camino de Santiago in the 21st Century*.

Also check out and choose one blog to examine in depth:

<http://caminotravelcenter.com/my-10-top-favorite-blogs-about-the-camino-de-santiago/>

Third thing this week: By *Thursday* of this week, post your first Discussion Board Entry: Choose a "Camino Blog" from the blog website in your readings this week, and spend some time getting familiar with it. Compare/contrast what you find in the blog with key points from your reading of Ogden's chapter. What does this additional chapter and your investigation of the blog add to your understanding of pilgrimage? *Make sure that you have not focused on a blog already chosen by another student in our class! Your first posting should be about 400 words. The Forum for this week again will close on Saturday at noon -- make sure that you return after Wed. multiple times to read about the blogs your peers have been examining, and compare and contrast what you find, and what you think about it!*

First Discussion Board Post is due by Thurs. At noon.

The Discussion Forum will close on Saturday at noon

-- make sure that your followup is as thoughtful and intelligent as your initial posting! As I grade your writing assignment, I will also post notes for you in the same grading box regarding your initial pilgrimage plans from your oral presentation at our synchronous class, and the "points" you received for your oral presentation/participation in our synchronous class discussion about Camino blogs. Thus: your grade for this week includes a) your oral presentation from Tuesday's class; b) your initial Discussion Board post and c) your responses and conversation with peers!

Week 12: April 4 – April 9 Designing Our Pilgrimage Experiences

Important note: Your work for this week requires you to have a google hangout (or face to face hangout) with your class partner this week – make sure you schedule that right away!

In three to four 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?

1. Aim for at least 4 research resources from our course that will help you to think about and analyze the pilgrimage you are planning. Two of these research resources should be from our theoretical material; two may be from the more popular material (films or the Strayed memoir, for example).

2. Please find at least 2 additional research resources that will help you to understand the particular topography/location/geography/history of your particular pilgrimage design. This means six research resources in all. Include them with 2 or so sentences at the end of each notation, so that you annotate them with your responses to the questions above.

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., other elements from your research, or pilgrimage artifacts, or other.

D. The beginning of a personal statement regarding the nature of the meaning of this experience in your own life -- *Write at least 350 words in which you explore, from a more personal perspective, the insights from your reading of "The View from the Edge" that you have read from Ozorak, and that you already have written about in our Discussion Forum. How might you draw upon the insights in this essay about pilgrimage as you plan, reflect upon and ready yourself for your own upcoming pilgrimage? Please be specific by referring to three different ideas/reflections from this reading that you take further with your own thought. Note: This will require that you approach this chapter mindfully, just as you did the material from Thich Nhat Hanh, when you did your mindfulness walk.*

E. Arrange for one more google hangout with your classmate/partner, 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 submit your outline to the BB assignment link, 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 Sunday noon, April 9

Unit Three: Our Pilgrimage Experiences

Week 13: April 11 -- 16

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 pm: Keynote Address, 9th Moravian College Peace and Justice Scholar in Residence: Claude AnShin Thomas, Vietnam Veteran, Buddhist Monk and Peace Activist *All Students are required to attend this lecture! Prosser Auditorium*

During this week I will be available for students who wish to consult with me regarding their pilgrimage plans and experiences through April 16. No other assignment due this week. Between the time of April 13 and April 22 or so every student should have embarked upon their 12 hour pilgrimage experience.

Note: Professor away at Conference from April 14 – 18.

Week 14: April 18 -- 23

Pilgrimages

During this week each student will consult with me either through an office meeting or google hangout regarding how they plan to analyze and present their pilgrimage experience in Week 15. I will have an announcement on BB about how to sign up for one of these meetings, which will be about 20 minutes for each student.

You will otherwise be using your time this week to be organizing, analyzing, creating your ppt/prezzi, and otherwise getting ready for your final presentation of your pilgrimage. The full guidelines for this presentation are below, in Week 15.

Week 15: April 25 -- 29

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, and finalizing their ppt for our synchronous classes. You also will begin writing your 6-7 page analysis, due on the day of our final by midnight. There will be signups for synchronous classes in which you will present your ppt; by midnight on the day of our final, you will submit both your ppt and your paper through the BB assignment link (this will give you the chance to refine your ppt if the suggestion arises during your presentation 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. Please be in touch with me if you would like to schedule an individual meeting over google hangout about your experience and your thoughts regarding analyzing/reflecting on your experience and creating your presentation.

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 of our final exam, 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.