

Modern Pilgrimage

Paul O'Connor

Tuesdays – 17:30-19:30 – Location P218

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of pilgrimage beginning with an exploration of the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. The ancient origins of this pilgrimage, and its transformation into a commercial and logistical marvel of the modern world foreground what pilgrimage means in the 21st century. The course explores tourism, sacred places, dark tourism, sport pilgrimage and virtual pilgrimage. Students are encouraged to consider their own pilgrimages and travels and to register the meaning and importance of these. Modern pilgrimage is explored through contrasting academic approaches of religious studies, tourism, sport, geography, and media studies.

Questions of pilgrimage extend to notions of a sociological division between the sacred and profane. How feasible is it to divide secular tourism and sacred pilgrimage in the modern world? Of further concern is how pilgrimage equips us to connect to community, ritualise place and time, and meet the ultimate challenges of life and death.

The aims of this course are to:

- Equip students with a broad interdisciplinary understanding of pilgrimage in a variety of modern forms.
- Instruct students in various methods to perform their own empirical research on pilgrimage.
- Enable students to question and debate an array of alternative and contemporary spiritual practices connected to place.

Assessment

- **Midterm.** Students will write and submit one mid-term essay (1000-1500 words) critiquing the contradiction of secular pilgrimage. The must explore relevant literature and argue their own position on what constitutes a modern pilgrimage.
- **Full Term.** Students will perform their own short research project on a pilgrimage (2,500 – 3000 words). This will include either a recounting of their own physical, or virtual pilgrimages, or observational/interview analysis at a pilgrimage site. What counts as a pilgrimage site will be down to the student to justify.
- **Participation.** Students will be called on to engage in discussion on readings and topics in weekly lectures.

Midterm Essay 30% - Due via Turnitin Monday 20th April

Full Term Project 40% - Monday via Turnitin 19th May

Participation 30%

Format

- Each lecture consists of a general theme that will be the major topic. Readings are directly connected to this theme and students are expected to refer to readings in class. In addition, each week has a pilgrimage case study which complements the lecture topic and readings.

Schedule

| | | Topic | Readings | Case Study |
|---------|-------|---|---|----------------|
| Week 1 | 18/02 | Introduction: Pilgrimage to Mecca Old and New | 1. <i>What is Pilgrimage</i> (Greenia) 2. <i>Hong Kong Muslims on Hajj</i> (O'Connor) | Hajj |
| Week 2 | 25/02 | Pilgrimage/Tourism | 1. Theories, from <i>The Tourist Gaze</i> (Urry) 2. Religion and Spirituality in Tourism, from <i>The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Tourism</i> (Stausberg) | Grand Tour |
| Week 3 | 03/03 | Communitas: The experience of the Pilgrim | 1. <i>Liminality and Communitas</i> (Turner) 2. <i>Dream Trippers: Global Daoism and the Predicament of Modern Spirituality</i> (Palmer & Siegler) | Kumbha Mela |
| Week 4 | 10/03 | Sacred Places | 1. <i>The Pilgrimage to Jim Morrison's Grave</i> (Margy) 2. <i>Do You Believe in Pilgrimage?</i> (Coleman) | Sedlec Ossuary |
| Week 5 | 17/03 | Secular Pilgrimage | 1. <i>Secular Pilgrimage a Contradiction in Terms</i> (Margry) | New York |
| Week 6 | 24/03 | Sport Pilgrimage | 1. <i>Handrails Steps and Curbs</i> (O'Connor) 2. <i>Pilgrimage to Fallen Gods of Olympia</i> (Digance) | Pre's Rock |
| Week 7 | 31/03 | Dark Tourism | 1. <i>JFK and Dark Tourism</i> (Foley & Lennon) 2. <i>Making Absent Death Present</i> (Stone) | Chernobyl |
| Week 8 | 07/04 | Virtual Pilgrimage | 1. <i>Virtual Pilgrimage on the Internet</i> (MacWilliams) 2. <i>Hurricane Katrina</i> (Bowen & Bannon) | Google Maps |
| Week 9 | 14/04 | No Class | Mid Term / Reading Week | |
| Week 10 | 21/04 | Political Pilgrimage | 1. Pilgrimage and Power, from <i>Guests of God</i> (Bianchi) 2. <i>Holocaust Tourism in Post-Holocaust Europe</i> (Allar) | Camino |
| Week 11 | 28/04 | Researching Pilgrimage | 1. <i>Interviewing, from The Routledge Handbook in Research Methods in the Study of Religion</i> (Bremborg) 2. <i>Researching Pilgrimage</i> (Collins-Kreiner) | The Thesis |
| Week 12 | 05/05 | Liminal States | 1. <i>Fan Pilgrimage</i> (Brooker) 2. Sex Pilgrims: Subjunctive Nostalgia, from <i>Tourist Attractions</i> (Mitchell) | Harry Potter |
| Week 13 | 12/05 | Conclusion | 1. Holy Movement and Holy Place (Taylor) | The Body |

Key Texts:

- Margry, P. J. (2008). *Shrines and Pilgrimage in the Modern World: New Itineraries into the Sacred* (P. J. Margry Ed.). Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Bianchi, R. (2004). *Guests of God: Pilgrimage and Politics in the Islamic World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Sharpley, R., & Stone, P. R. (2009). *The Darker Side of Travel: The Theory and Practice of Dark Tourism*: Channel View Publications.

Further Reading:

- Albera, D., & Eade, J. (2016). *New Pathways in Pilgrimage Studies: Global Perspectives*: Taylor & Francis.
- Aukland, K. (2015). Retailing Religion: Guided Tours and Guide Narratives in Hindu Pilgrimage. *Tourist Studies*, 16(3), 237-257. doi:10.1177/1468797615618038
- Bardella, C. (2016). Pilgrimages of the Plagued: Aids, Body and Society. *Body & Society*, 8(2), 79-105. doi:10.1177/1357034x02008002005
- Black, J. (2010). *The British and the Grand Tour*: Routledge.
- Bowen, D. I., & Bannon, S. (2018). Hurricane Katrina Goes Digital: Memory, Dark Tours, and Youtube *Virtual Dark Tourism* (pp. 205-224).
- Brooker, W. (2016). Everywhere and Nowhere. *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 10(4), 423-444. doi:10.1177/1367877907083078
- Coleman, S. (2016). Do You Believe in Pilgrimage? *Anthropological Theory*, 2(3), 355-368. doi:10.1177/1463499602002003805
- Collins-Kreiner, N. (2010). Researching Pilgrimage. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 37(2), 440-456. doi:10.1016/j.annals.2009.10.016
- Collins-Kreiner, N. (2016). Dark Tourism as/Is Pilgrimage. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 19(12), 1185-1189. doi:10.1080/13683500.2015.1078299
- Crone, P. (1987). *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Cusack, C. M., & Digance, J. (2009). The Melbourne Cup: Australian Identity and Secular Pilgrimage. *Sport in Society*, 12(7), 876-889. doi:10.1080/17430430903053109
- Digance, J., & Toohey, K. (2011). Pilgrimage to Fallen Gods from Olympia: The Cult of Sport Celebrities. *Australisn Religious Studies Review*, 24, 342-360. doi:10.1558/arsr.v24i3.342
- Foley, M., & Lennon, J. J. (1996). Jfk and Dark Tourism: A Fascination with Assassination. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2(4), 198-211. doi:10.1080/13527259608722175
- Gammon, S. (2004). Secular Pilgrimage and Sport Tourism. In B. Richie & D. Adair (Eds.), *Sport Tourism: Interrelationships, Impacts and Issues* (pp. 30-45). Clevedon: Channel View Publications.
- Gammon, S. (2004). Secular Pilgrimage and Sport Tourism. In B. Richie & D. Adair (Eds.), *Sport Tourism: Interrelationships, Impacts and Issues* (pp. 30-45). Clevedon: Channel View Publications.
- Geertz, C. (1968). *Islam Observed: Religious Development in Morocco and Indonesia*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Gladstone, D. L. (2013). *From Pilgrimage to Package Tour: Travel and Tourism in the Third World*. London: Routledge.

- Goatcher, J., & Brunsten, V. (2011). Chernobyl and the Sublime Tourist. *Tourist Studies*, 11(2), 115-137. doi:10.1177/1468797611424956
- Greenia, George D. (2018) "What is Pilgrimage?," *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*: Vol. 6: Iss. 2, Article 3. Available at: <https://arrow.dit.ie/ijrtp/vol6/iss2/3>
- MacWilliams, M. W. (2002). Virtual Pilgrimages on the Internet. *Religion*, 32(4), 315-335. doi:10.1006/reli.2002.0408
- Morales, H. (2014). *Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee*: University of Chicago Press.
- Morales, H. (2014). *Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee*: University of Chicago Press.
- Nahin, P. J. (2014). *Holy Sci-Fi! Where Science Fiction and Religion Intersect*. New York: Springer.
- O'Connor, P. (2014). Hong Kong Muslims on Hajj: Rhythms of the Pilgrimage 2.0 and Experiences of Spirituality among Twenty-First Century Global Cities. *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 34(4), 315-329. doi:10.1080/13602004.2014.939557
- O'Connor, P. (2017). Handrails, Steps and Curbs: Sacred Places and Secular Pilgrimage in Skateboarding. *Sport in Society*, 21(11), 1651-1668. doi:10.1080/17430437.2017.1390567
- Parker, A., & Watson, N. J. (2014). Researching Religion, Disability, and Sport: Reflections and Possibilities. *Journal of Disability & Religion*, 18(2), 192-208. doi:10.1080/23312521.2014.898399
- Parker, A., & Watson, N. J. (2014). Researching Religion, Disability, and Sport: Reflections and Possibilities. *Journal of Disability & Religion*, 18(2), 192-208. doi:10.1080/23312521.2014.898399
- Potts, T. J. (2012). 'Dark Tourism' and the 'Kitschification' of 9/11. *Tourist Studies*, 12(3), 232-249. doi:10.1177/1468797612461083
- Qurashi, J. (2017). Commodification of Islamic Religious Tourism: From Spiritual to Touristic Experience. *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*, 5(1). doi:arrow.dit.ie/ijrtp/
- Reader, I. (2013). *Pilgrimage in the Marketplace*: Taylor & Francis.
- Stausberg, M. (2014). Religion and Spirituality in Tourism. In A. A. Lew, C. M. Hall, & A. M. Williams (Eds.), *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Tourism*. London: Blackwell.
- Stausberg, M., & Engler, S. (2013). *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*. London: Taylor & Francis.
- Taylor, R. M. (2011). Holy Movement and Holy Place: Christian Pilgrimage and the Hajj. *Dialog*, 50(3), 262-270. doi:10.1111/j.1540-6385.2011.00626.x
- Turner, V. (1977). *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Urry, J., & Larsen, J. (2011). *The Tourist Gaze 3.0*. London: Sage.
- Vertinsky, P., & Bale, J. (2004). *Sites of Sport: Space, Place, Experience*. London: Routledge.
- Williams, A. M. (2013). Surfing Therapeutic Landscapes: Exploring Cyberpilgrimage. *Culture and Religion*, 14(1), 78-93. doi:10.1080/14755610.2012.756407
- Wynn, J. R. (2010). City Tour Guides: Urban Alchemists at Work. *City & Community*, 9(2), 145-164. doi:10.1111/j.1540-6040.2010.01322.x
- Yeoh, S. G. (2009). For/against Hybridity: Religious Entrepreneurships in a Roman Catholic Pilgrimage Shrine in Malaysia. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 37, 7-28.