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LS 395.80: Pilgrimage - The Journey as Quest

Paul A. Dietrich

University of Montana - Missoula, paul.dietrich@umontana.edu

Jean Larson

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RELS 395.80/LS 395.80 Pilgrimage: The Journey as Quest

Paul A. Dietrich
LA 101A
243-2805

paul.dietrich@mso.umt.edu

Spring, 2003
TR 2:10-3:30
GBB L04

Jean Larson
The Ark
549-7821

lcmum@bigsky.net

An exploration of the spirituality, art, culture, and history of the phenomenon of pilgrimage, this course also serves as a preparatory class for the May 2003 Pilgrimage in Burgundy led by Professors Jean Larson and Ione Crummy (FLL). Organized as a seminar, we will consider topics such as the following according to interests of the group.

I. The Place of Pilgrimage in World Religions

1. Study of Pilgrimage in the History of Religions and Comparative Cultures
2. Major World Religious Traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism
3. Primal/Indigenous and Native American Traditions

II. Pilgrimage and the Social Sciences

4. Anthropology of Pilgrimage: Rites of Passage in van Gennep and Turner
5. Phenomenology of Pilgrimage: Stages of the Journey (e.g., Longing, Call, Preparation, Departure, Passage, Arrival, Contact, Return)
6. Psychology of Pilgrimage: Liminality and Flow
7. Sociology of Pilgrimage: *Communitas* – the Company of Others

III. Historical and Theological Approaches

8. Ancient Pilgrimage as Therapy and Healing
9. Medieval Pilgrimage as Penitence and Petition/Thanksgiving
10. Modern Pilgrimage as Tourism and Adventure

IV. Case Study: Phenomenology of Medieval European Pilgrimage

11. Pilgrimage in Medieval Europe – Routes and Sites in Italy, Spain, England, Ireland and France
12. The Holy Land as Pilgrimage Site from St. Helena to the Crusades
13. Art and Architecture of Pilgrimage Churches
14. Saints, Shrines, and Rituals: Sacred Presence, Narrative and Gesture
15. Monks and Pilgrims from Cluny to Taize

V. Literary and Autobiographical Accounts

16. Autobiographical, Metaphysical, and Literary Pilgrimages from Dante to Kerouac
17. Wayfaring Women from Egeria and Margery Kempe to Alice Walker

We hope to arrange guest lectures from members of the University and the community on a variety of topics, e.g.: Pilgrimage in Buddhism and Hinduism; the Hajj in Islam; Pilgrimage in Native American Traditions; El Camino: the Road to Compostela (cf. Jean's 1/22/03 email); Chaucer's

Canterbury Tales; The Tradition of the Labyrinth; Pilgrims in the Holy Land; Sacred Images: Pilgrims and Icons; Introduction to Burgundy

Syllabus

Most of the 28 course meetings will be structured according to: a series of topics arrived at through group consensus, a series of class presentations, and the availability of guest lecturers. In other words, our academic *peregrinatio* will combine solid, pretrip planning and an itinerary partially subject to improvisation, consensus and serendipity. To get started however, we thought it advisable to provide a structure for the first three weeks and to have some common reading under our belt. Therefore you are responsible for the following texts:

- Jan. 28 Malcolm X, "Mecca" in Bouldrey, ed., pp.10-27.
Pico Iyer, "Foreword" in Bouldrey, ed., pp.vii-xii.
- Jan. 30 Diana Eck, Encountering God, ch.1, pp.4-21, on ERES
Assignment: 1 page response for 2/4, "Why Am I Going?"
- Feb. 4 Jean D. Clift & Wallace B.Clift, "Why People Go",
(The Archetype of Pilgrimage, ch.3) pp.42-62, on ERES
- Feb. 6 Mircea Eliade, Patterns in Comparative Religion, chs. 1, 10,
pp.1-4;367-385, on ERES
- Feb. 11,13 Victor Turner, "Pilgrimages as Social Processes", pp.166-230,
on ERES

Required Reading

Bouldrey, Brian,ed., Traveling Souls (Whereabouts Press)
Chaucer, Geoffrey, The Canterbury Tales (Penguin)
Clement, Olivier, Taize – A Meaning to Life (GIA Pubs)
Cousineau, Phil, The Art of Pilgrimage (Conari Press)
Selected articles on Electronic Reserve in Mansfield Library (ERES)
(Electronic Reserve: <http://eres.lib.umt.edu>; Password:"Peregrina")

Course Requirements

1. Students will be expected to complete reading assignments promptly and to participate in class discussions. Attendance is crucial in a small seminar class.
2. Each student will prepare a class presentation on one or more topics which will be the basis for a term paper due at the end of the semester.
3. Students will also be expected to keep a journal to record responses to the weekly readings. Guidelines for journal entries will be forthcoming.