

RELIGION 450: Place and Pilgrimage

Dr. Luke Whitmore

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5 and by appointment.

Location: CCC 417 (and sometimes Zest)

DESCRIPTION

The senior seminar is where religious studies students are invited to investigate adaptively and creatively a specific set of advanced topics in the study of religion, using the knowledge, skills, and dispositions acquired over the course of their studies at UWSP. In my view this means that our task is to consider cutting edge topics that are of critical importance both in the academic study of religion and in the world today. My aim is to equip the participants in this seminar with the ability to participate in public conversations about religion in skillful and useful ways and to offer a set of conceptually, intellectually, and existentially useful touchstones with which to think about being in the world. A corollary goal is to understand the value of training in religious studies in today's world and to provide language that can be used to express this understanding to others.

Our specific foci for this semester are “place and pilgrimage.” As we will learn, these two topics share considerable overlap and provide a good “capstone laboratory” where you can really lock in and make your own training you have received in religious studies courses. This course will have two persistent themes: a shared conversation about how the analytic categories of place and pilgrimage can be used to study “religion” and the undertaking of an independent project that will culminate in a final research essay.

READINGS

The following text is required for purchase.

Places in Motion: The Fluid Identities of Temples, Images, and Pilgrims by Jacob Kinnard. (Oxford University Press: 2014). **ISBN-13: 978-0199359660**

Other readings will be in the form of articles or specific books relevant to your project.

GRADES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Participation and Preparation: (30%)

You are expected each week to come to class having carefully prepared both the assigned reading and independent reading relevant to the week and to your project. Each week two-three seminar participants will be asked to take on a higher level of responsibility for our conversations together. This means that at the beginning of (usually a Tuesday) class you'll need to offer a quick summary of the reading, and mention particular points of interest/relevance/confusion. That should take about 4-6 minutes in total and both people should actively present. You are welcome to provide a handout. You will also need to keep the conversation flowing, particularly by asking follow-up questions where appropriate. On most Thursdays each seminar participant will briefly present to the class a snapshot of the progress of their independent research project. You must actually read a minimum of one scholarly article/book chapter/ equivalent secondary or primary source each week for this aspect of the class and you should (each week, by Thursday's class) upload a copy of the source and your notes/thoughts/ruminations/questions on the source. There will be a D2L dropbox for this purpose but if you would prefer something else (Google Drive, OneNote, etc.) let me know.

Unit 1 Assignment: (20%)

There are three components to this assignment. The first component is an *approximately 1000-word essay* (guidelines to follow) in which you will, in response to a specific prompt, offer your own analysis of what we have done in the first five weeks of the course. The second component is a preliminary *annotated bibliography* containing at least seven sources relevant to your in-progress choice of topic for the final paper, at least three of which must be peer-reviewed, scholarly sources and at least one of which must be a primary source. The third component is a *resume*.

Assignment 2: Research Prospectus (20%)

This assignment will ask you to respond to a series of questions (to be provided) designed to ensure the success of your final paper. It will further ask for a second *annotated bibliography* containing at least sixteen sources relevant to your final paper.

Final Paper: Rough Draft 10%, Final Version 20%

The final paper, unless otherwise stipulated, will be an at least 3000 word research essay on a topic of your choice that you have developed in consultation with me over the course of the semester. Specific guidelines will be provided later in the semester. The rough draft of the final paper will need to be at least 2000 words and should be as polished as possible (spelling, grammar, syntax, citation, etc). There needs to be significant transformation between the rough draft and the final version.

Policies

Absences

Full participation for our seminar is crucial. Everyone is automatically entitled to two unexcused absences. Anything beyond this should be discussed with me and may impact your final grade. One copy of any absence-related information should be placed in the "Absence" folder on D2L.

Learning Accommodations

<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>

Mutual Respect

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>

Academic Misconduct

<http://library.uwsp.edu/guides/vrd/plagiarism.htm>

https://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Orientation/AcademicMisconductRulesAndProcedures_booklet.pdf

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

- Tuesday, January 23, 2018
 - Beginning
- Thursday, January 25, 2018
 - View *The One and the Many: Pilgrims in a World of Faith* (available through Films on Demand on the UWSP library site).
 - Read KINNARD: Preface: The Questions of Places
 - Setting of Intentions
 - Submit a .docx document to the Setting of Intentions dropbox on D2L with your answers to the following questions
 - What potential topics/topic do you hope to explore this semester? You must list at least three unless you already have a firm topic in mind.
 - What questions relating to “religion” do you hope to explore this semester?
 - In what ways do you hope to grow intellectually, personally, and professionally this semester?
 - What kinds of data would be relevant for research about the pilgrimage to Santiago De Compostela? You know me. Be as concrete and specific as possible.
 - What methods could be used to research the Santiago De Compostela? You know me. Be as concrete and specific as possible.
 - What theories could be used to analyze data connected to Santiago De Compostela? You know me. Be as concrete and specific as possible.
 - What did you take to be Kinnard’s main points?

Week 2

- Tuesday, January 30, 2018
 - KINNARD: Chapter 1: Place, Contestation, and the Complexities of Agency
- Thursday, February 1, 2018
 - Independent Work 1: Primary and secondary source research. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking.

Week 3

- Tuesday, February 6, 2018
 - Read KINNARD: Chapter 2: Power Fallen From the Sky
- Thursday, February 8, 2018
 - Independent Work 2: Primary and secondary source research. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking.

Week 4

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018
 - Read KINNARD Chapter 3: The Polyvalent Padas of Vishnu and Buddha
- Thursday, February 15, 2018: Independent Work 3. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking.

Week 5

- Tuesday, February 20, 2018
 - Read “Evangelical Pilgrimage: The Language of Short-Term Missions” by Brian Howell and Rachel Dorr (PDF on D2L)
- Thursday, February 22, 2018
 - Unit 1 Assignment Due

Week 6

- Tuesday, February 27, 2018
 - Chapter 4: The Drama of Vishnu and Buddha at Bodhgaya
- Thursday, March 1, 2018
 - Independent Work 4. Independent Work 3. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking. *Focus on primary sources.*

Week 7

- Tuesday, March 6, 2018
 - Chapter 5: Bodhgaya, Unesco, and the Ambiguities of Preservation
- Thursday, March 8, 2018
 - Independent Work 5. Independent Work 3. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking. *Focus on scholarly and scholarly/peer-reviewed sources.*

Week 8

- Tuesday, March 13, 2018
 - Chapter 6: The Power and Politics of Emplacement
- Thursday, March 15, 2018
 - Independent Work 6. Independent Work 3. 80% of the minimum prep time should be spent in actual reading and note-taking. *Focus on non-scholarly secondary sources.*

Week 9

- Tuesday, March 20, 2018
 - **Star Trek Pilgrimage (PDF on D2L)**
- Thursday, March 22, 2018
 - **Research Prospectus Due.**

Spring Break

Week 10

- Tuesday, April 3
 - Kinnard: Chapter 7: Public Space or Sacred Place
- Thursday, April 5
 - Independent Work 6. This week's D2L upload should contain, in addition to a summary of what you read, a paragraph summary from you about what assignment you gave yourself this week and why.

Week 11:

Tuesday, April 10

- Chapter 1 ("Deploying Tourism") from *Investigating Birthright Israel: Tours That Bind* by Shaul Kellner (PDF on D2L)

Thursday, April, 12

- Individual Conferences

Week 12

Tuesday, April 17:

Birthright Israel, Part 2.

Come to class ready to summarize (in no more than a couple of minutes) what your chapter was about and your reactions and commentary on the chapter).

Thursday, April 19: Rough Draft Due. Class participation on this day important for seminar grade.

Week 13

Tuesday, April 24

- Kinnard, Chapter 8 (Fences and Walls)
- Overarching Review of Kinnard (think back over book as a whole)
- Discussion of Final Essay

Thursday, April 26: Practicum

- Bring in 9 printed copies of two paragraphs from your rough draft that are representative of what you are trying to do. I'd suggest the introduction and one body paragraph.
- Write out and be prepared to share what you feel you need to do between your rough draft and final draft.

Week 14

Tuesday, May 1: Student Presentations begin.

Thursday, May 3: Student Presentations continue.

Week 15

Tuesday, May 8: Student Presentations continue.

Thursday, May 10: Student Presentations, Closing conversations

Major Assignment Deadlines (subject to change)

Thursday, March 22: Research Prospectus Due.

Thursday, April 19: Rough Draft Due.

Tuesday, May 1: Final Presentations.

Thursday, May 3: Final Presentations.

Tuesday, May 8: Final Presentations.

Wednesday, May 16: Final Essay due to D2L by 5 PM.