



RL 271 PATHS OF THE SACRED: PILGRIMAGE IN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND ITS EVOLUTION IN EUROPE
IES Abroad Salamanca

DESCRIPTION:

Study of the historical, phenomenological and cultural dimensions of the religious pilgrimage as one of the most representative manifestations of the spiritual traditions of humanity. The subject takes a tour of this religious phenomenon in three stages, which includes both the most universal perspective and the particular cases of the different pilgrimages of the group of universalist religions: anthropological and phenomenological foundation of the pilgrimage; exposition of the most important pilgrimages of the monotheistic universalist religions and their significance for these traditions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam); the most important European Christian pilgrimages and, especially, the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Jewish, Muslim and Christian pilgrimages will guide us through the history, doctrine and art of their respective religious traditions.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Spanish

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Magisterial presentations, documentaries, readings, group discussions, individual works and exhibitions of activities by students. Most of the materials (presentations, texts, images, etc.) used in the classes will be available to students on the IES Moodle platform <https://moodle.iesabroad.org>.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 25%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final Exam - 30%
- Research Paper - 25%

Course Participation

With the concept 'participation in the course' we understand three dimensions of the teaching-learning process: diagnostic assessment (to know student's skills and knowledge before instruction), formative assessment (first attempt of developing instruction to provide feedback from student learning) and summative assessment (the extent to which the most important outcomes at the end of the instruction have been reached).

Thus, to evaluate participation in the course, considering these three dimensions, they will be evaluated: exhibition of readings, activities or Power-Point presentations, group work in the classroom, debate based on compulsory readings, participation in Moodle thematic forums.

Midterm Exam

Written exam consisting of two essay questions

Final Exam

Written exam consisting of three essay questions

Research Paper

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The research paper consists in an academic essay, a focused piece of writing that develops an idea or argument using evidence, analysis and interpretation, with the aim to persuade of a particular position or perspective on a topic. The research paper should follow these four step process: 1) develop a topic by understanding the assignment requirements, exploring background information, and forming a working thesis; 2) conduct research using scholarly sources, taking critical notes and reading closely; 3) create a thesis statement and outline of arguments that will form the essay; 4) write the essay and integrate research evidence with properly formatted citations and references (the citation form of student's home universities will be respected). Any topic covered in the course can be the subject of the essay. The perspective of the work can be plural: the student will be able to develop their arguments from the fields of history, religious phenomenology, theology, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, economics, sociology.

The minimum length of the essay will be 8 pages, and the maximum length will be 10 pages.

Margins and font type/size norms of student's home universities will be respected.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The work carried out individually and collectively by the student, the written tests and the continuous evaluation will serve the teacher to verify the depth and breadth of the knowledge acquired and to specify the degree of use of the subject and, in that sense, the quality of the results of learning. At the end of the course, and as a result of it, the student must be able to demonstrate:

- Contextualize the phenomenon of pilgrimage within a specific religious tradition, a culture and the history of a people.
- Establish the existing links between the respective pilgrimages of each religious tradition: highlight the universal commonality of the pilgrimage.
- Critically assess the positive elements and the most problematic aspects of the pilgrimage phenomenon in its different dimensions (religious, cultural, political, economic).
- Relate the Christian pilgrimage with the development and evolution of political, economic and cultural ideas in Europe.
- Know the particularities of each of the religious traditions studied through their respective pilgrimages.
- Identify the fundamental elements that constitute the cultural relevance of the Camino de Santiago: historical development, political and economic importance of the Camino for Spain and Europe, influence on the artistic development of the Middle Ages and today, intercultural value for being a place of meeting of nationalities, cultures and religions ...

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) - “Salamanca Sensible”:

- Know and understand that faith communities are united in accepting the claim for ‘justice for all’ (leave no one behind), through some of his central doctrines, especially on his interpretation of nature.
- Articulate how the teachings of the great universalist religious traditions defend that every human being has the right to live a life in dignity, free from hunger and disease.
- Know how Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity articulate the right of every human being to develop personally and to live in safety and wellbeing.
- Understand how the great modern religious traditions teach their communities that we have a common responsibility to collaborate so that their creed contributes to a more sustainable development of the entire planet.

Interpret how religions derive spiritual environmentalism from their respective understandings of the divine origin of reality and of existence in general.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance is mandatory at IES Abroad Salamanca. Only two unexcused absences are allowed throughout the course. For each other unexcused absence there will be a reduction in the final grade. Punctuality: being late on a regular basis will also affect the final grade.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
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Week 1 Session 1	Introduction to the course Presentation of the subject, the teacher and the students. Presentation of the program and the objectives of the subject, explanation of the activities to be carried out and advice on the bibliography to be used	Interviewing classmates in order to know each other. Activity to do at home for the next session. Read: "Introduction", by Deborah Ross, in V. Turner - E. Turner, Image and pilgrimage in Christian Culture (pp. XXIX-XLIX). Write down the most important ideas from the text to discuss in session 2 (Wednesday, September 15).
Week 1 Session 2	Phenomenology of religious pilgrimage: sacred and profane Phenomenological analysis of the structure of the pilgrimage in religious traditions.	DOCUMENTARY FRAGMENTS on the role of temples in religious processional ceremonies of ancient civilizations. Activity to do at home: Read the short articles (14 pages in total): "The importance of religious tourism and pilgrimage: reflecting on definitions, reasons and data" and "Religious tourism in the tourism system". Write down the most important ideas from the text to discuss in session 3.
Week 2 Session 3	Pilgrimages from religious anthropology Anthropological keys to the itinerant condition of the human being and its development in the religious sphere	The itinerant dimension of the human being. Activity to do at home: Read 'Introduction' and ch. 1 'Sacred space and making the world sacred' by Mircea Eliade, in his work The sacred and the profane. The nature of religion, and carry out an essay of a minimum length of 4 pages and a maximum of 6 pages.
Week 2 Session 4	The new religious tourism and pilgrimages Analysis of the economic influence of the so-called 'religious tourism' at the local and national levels	Reading discussion: "The Importance of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage: reflecting on definitions, motives and data" and "Religious tourism in the tourism system". Activity to do at home: group elaboration of a Power-Point presentation with 10 slides. In each of the slides the students will show images related to some of the most important religious pilgrimages of the world's religions. Each group must explain the characteristics of some of the artistic aspects (its architecture, its pictorial or sculptural ornamentation, its objects of worship...) of the pilgrimage on which they have had to work.
Week 3 Session 5	Religion and virtue ethics	Read and work the document: 'Keeping Faith in 2030: Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals' Prepare an outline of three main ideas from this reading.

	<p>(SDGs) Moral Teachings and Sustainable Development: An Overview from the World's Religions →</p> <p>The meaning of virtue ethics and its expression in several major religious and philosophical traditions;</p> <p>The importance of establishing multi-faith consensus to advance sustainable development;</p> <p>The importance of involving faith communities in peace and development work;</p> <p>How ethics motivates the actions of religious and secular leaders, politicians, scientists, civil society, and business;</p> <p>What shared virtue ethics are needed to create a more peaceful and prosperous world for everyone.</p>	
<p>Week 3</p> <p>Session 6</p>	<p>Pilgrimages in the great Asian religious traditions (1): Hinduism</p>	<p>Introduction to the concept, dynamics and evolution of the religious pilgrimage in Hinduism. Analysis of the repercussion of this religion in the Western world in general and in Europe in particular.</p> <p>Activity to do at home: reading and preparing a critical comment of a minimum length of 4 pages from one of the first 3 chapters of Chan Khoon San's book, Buddhist pilgrimage.</p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p>Session 7</p>	<p>Pilgrimages in the great Asian religious traditions (2): Buddhism</p>	<p>Introduction to the concept, dynamics and evolution of the religious pilgrimage in Buddhism. Analysis of the repercussion of this religion in the Western world in general and in Europe in particular.</p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p>Session 8</p>	<p>Religious worldview and pilgrimage and Their Relation to Environmental Justice</p> <p>(SDGs)</p> <p>Analysis of the constituent relationship between the religious interpretation of reality (cosmos, man and culture) and the religious pilgrimage in Eastern and Western traditions.</p> <p>Study and analysis of the foundations of the main religious doctrines on the sense of reality and its necessary ecological consequences</p>	<p>Analysis of the constituent relationship between the religious interpretation of reality (cosmos, man and culture) and the religious pilgrimage in Eastern and Western traditions.</p> <p>Activity to do at home: Read and write a critical comment on one of the following articles: K. Rountree, "Performing the Divine: Neo-Pagan Pilgrimages and Embodiment at Sacred Sites", in Body & Society Review 12/4 (2006), 94-115. A. Ivakhiv, "Nature and Self in New Age Pilgrimage", Culture and Religion 4/1 (2003) 93-118.</p>

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Week 5 Session 9	Religious pilgrimage in the context of the new spiritualities: new age and neo-paganism Study of the new forms of pilgrimage (form and concept) in two of the most representative contemporary manifestations of religiosity.	Study of the new forms of pilgrimage (form and concept) in two of the most representative contemporary manifestations of religiosity. Activity to do at home: reading and drawing up a diagram with the fundamental concepts of three chapters of Lluís Duch's book: Myth, interpretation and culture (pages 30-73).
Week 5 Session 10	Theology and pilgrimage Comparative analysis of the relationship between the doctrine of salvation and the meaning of religious pilgrimage in monotheistic religious traditions.	Comparative analysis of the relationship between the doctrine of salvation and the meaning of religious pilgrimage in monotheistic religious traditions. Activity to do at home: Read and create a three-page personal commentary with a critical analysis of three chapters of Claude Wiener's work, The Book of Exodus (pp. 6-41)
Week 6 Session 11	MIDTERM Written exam.	Written exam consisting of two essay questions on the topics covered in class so far.
Week 6 Session 12	TUTORIAL SESSION Group tutorial session.	Session to solve questions and doubts about the midterm of the previous day, the research paper, the consolidation of the provisional contents of the subject, the planning of the rest of the sessions ...
Week 7 Session 13	The exodus. the great Jewish allegory of pilgrimage	Exegetical, theological and typological analysis of one of the foundational events of the Jewish faith, as well as its pilgrimage festivals. Activity to do at home: Reading of the chapter "Jewish Pilgrimage and Peace", by Norman Solomon, pp. 39-61.
Week 7 Session 14	The great Jewish pilgrimage festivals: the path without a path	Analysis of a major category of Jewish holidays is the pilgrimage festival. Described in the Hebrew Bible as celebrating both agricultural festivals and historical events in the history of the Jewish people, these three holidays were set aside in biblical times for people to travel to the ancient Temple in Jerusalem to. These three holidays are Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.
Week 8 Session 15	The way of the messenger. Muhammad and Mecca Study of the formation of the tradition of the ritual pilgrimage to Mecca.	Analysis of the documentary: «Empires of faith. Islam. Part 1: The Messenger », on the context of the birth of Islam, and the history of the formation of the five pillars of this religious tradition, together with the importance of Mecca and the Kaaba for the ritual pilgrimage that takes place annually.



Week 8 Session 16	The Hajj The fifth pillar of Islam.	Activity to do at home: Reading a chapter of the book by F. E. Peters: The Hajj. The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca and the Holy Places (pp. 3-25).
Week 9 Session 17	Christian pilgrimages in medieval Europe Introduction to the relationship between the creation of Christian pilgrimage routes in Europe and their political development since the Middle Ages	Study of the meaning of the Hajj, the obligatory ritual pilgrimage of Islam and one of the fundamental pillars of their faith. Its history, its ritual structure, the meaning of each rite and its actuality will be analyzed. Activity to do at home: Reading a chapter of the book by F. E. Peters: The Hajj. The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca and the Holy Places (pp. 3-25).
Week 9 Session 18	History and development of the religious, cultural and tourist phenomenon of 'El Camino de Santiago'	Study of the formation history of the pilgrimage tradition to Santiago de Compostela, in northwestern Spain. The Camino de Santiago has been a pilgrimage route for more than 1,000 years, and there's even evidence that there was a route here in pre-Christian times. The Camino grew in popularity in the Middle Ages, with more than 250,000 pilgrims visiting every year, and it became one of the three most popular Christian pilgrimages – the other two being to Jerusalem and Rome.
Week 10 Session 19	The six main routes of 'El Camino de Santiago'	There are seven well-established routes of St.James; Camino Frances (the French Way), Camino Portugués (the Portuguese Way), Camino del Norte (the Northern Way), Camino Primitivo (the Original Way), Via de la Plata (the Silver Way), Camino Inglés (the English Way) and Camino Finisterre-Muxía. We will briefly explore each of the routes, analyzing, above all, its cultural and economic development. Activity to do at home: reading and writing a script with the main ideas of two chapters of the work of Xosé Luis Barreiro Rivas, The Foundation of the West. The Camino de Santiago in political perspective (pp. 4-21).
Week 10 Session 20	The Camino's 'Ruta de la Plata' and Salamanca	Discovery of the importance of El Camino for the development of the medieval city of Salamanca, with its particular influence on the cathedrals. Activity to do at home: Reading of the chapter «Pilgrimage in Modern Spain: Change and Transition», by José Andrés-Gallego, pp. 243-264, and preparation of a short 3-page essay.
Week 11 Session 21	'El Camino' in cinema and in modern and contemporary literature	The Camino is becoming increasingly popular in modern times, thanks to a variety of factors. In addition to marking the route, Father Elias Valiña

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		<p>Sampedro also promoted it throughout Europe to the effect that it was declared a Unesco World Heritage site in 1993. In 2010, <i>The Way</i>, a movie about the Camino starring Martin Sheen, was released.</p> <p>In 2019, more than 350,000 pilgrims walked the Camino de Santiago, with many following the traditional French Way.</p> <p>We will study the effect of its influence on the worlds of literature and cinema</p>
Week 11 Session 22	The other pilgrimages of the Iberian Peninsula: Fatima, Lourdes and El Rocío	<p>Discovery of the other three great Christian pilgrimages in the territory of the Iberian Peninsula, in which the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the main protagonist.</p> <p>We will analyze the different meanings of these pilgrimages, as well as the problems and risks for religious orthodoxy.</p>
Week 12 Session 23	New pilgrims and new tourists for environmental sustainability (SDGs)	<p>This session offers a study of some local sustainable development tourism projects in the frame of "slow" tourism pilgrimages as a concrete application of policies of harmonization between tourism and the environment. In an empirical framework, we will refer to some interregional cases within a larger regional scope (Europe). The experiences mentioned, described within a predominantly quantitative and qualitative interdisciplinary and intercultural framework, have used protocols of sustainability dictated by international and European organizations, resulting in the effective application of the slow-tourism of pilgrimages, and in its support of sustainable ecological touristic practice within the larger cultural movement of "the greening of religion".</p> <p>Home Activity: Read and write a short essay on a critical commentary on a chapter page from: William H. Swatos - Luigi Tomasso (eds.), <i>From Medieval Pilgrimage to Religious Tourism: The Social and Cultural Economics of Piety</i> (pp. 4-42).</p>
Week 13 Session 24	FINAL EXAM Written exam.	<p>Written exam consisting of three essay questions on the topics covered in class from the midterm exam.</p>

REQUIRED READINGS:



• Silvia Alfayé, «Hacia el lugar de los dioses: aproximación a la peregrinación religiosa», en Francisco Marco Simón – Francisco Pina Polo – José Remesal Rodríguez (eds.) Viajeros, peregrinos y aventureros en el mundo antiguo, Barcelona 2010, 177-218.

• José Andrés-Gallego, «Pilgrimage in Modern Spain: Change and Transition», en Antón M. Pazos (ed.), Pilgrims and Pilgrimages as Peacemakers in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Farnham (UK) – Burlington (USA) 2013, págs. 243-264.

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• X. Luis Barreiro Rivas: The construction of political space: symbolic and cosmological elements. Jerusalem and Santiago, Santiago de Compostela 1999.

• Mircea Eliade, The sacred and the profane. The nature of religion, New York 1961

• K. Griffin – R. Raj Dr., “The Importance of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage: reflecting of definitions, motives and data”, International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (2017), ii-ix.

• A. Ivakhiv, “Nature and Self in New Age Pilgrimage”, Culture and Religion 4/1 (2003) 93-118.

• M. Lurker, El mensaje de los símbolos. Mitos, culturas y religiones, Barcelona 1992

• Juan Martín Velasco, Introducción a la fenomenología de la religión, Madrid 2006.

• Deborah Ross, «Introduction», en Victor Turner – E. Turner, Image and pilgrimage in Christian culture, New York 1995.

• K. Rountree, “Performing the Divine: Neo-Pagan Pilgrimages and Embodiment at Sacred Sites”, Body & Society 12/4 (2006), 94-115.

• Norman Solomon, «Jewish Pilgrimage and Peace», en Antón M. Pazos (ed.), Pilgrims and Pilgrimages as Peacemakers in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Farnham (UK) – Burlington (USA) 2013, págs. 39-61.

• William H. Swatos – Luigi Tomasso (eds.), From Medieval Pilgrimage to Religious Tourism: The Social and Cultural Economics of Piety, Praeger Publishers, Westport CT 2002

• S. Vijayanand, «Socio-economic impacts in pilgrimage tourism», in Zenith Vol. 2 (2012), 329-343

• Magali Werba y Enrique Horowitz: Shalosh Regalim. Pésaj, Shavuot, Sucot, Madrid 2006

• Hans Küng, El islam. Historia, presente, futuro, Madrid 2007

• F. E. Peters, The Hajj: The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca and the Holy Places, Princeton 1994

• Millán Bravo Lozano, Guía del peregrino medieval: Codex Calixtinus, Santiago de Compostela 1989

• Diana Webb, Medieval European Pilgrimage, Basingstoke / New York 2002

• Francisco Nadal, El Camino de Santiago a pie, Madrid 2010, Santiago de Compostela 1993

• José Luis Laredo Verdejo, Galicia. El Camino de Santiago

• VV.AA. Los caminos de Santiago, 3 vols, Madrid 2009

• VV.AA. “Religious tourism in the tourism system”, Revista San Gregorio (2017), 96-103

• Xosé Luis Barreiro Rivas, La fundación de Occidente. El Camino de Santiago en perspectiva política, Barcelona 2009

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RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Diana Webb, *Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in the Medieval West*, New York 1999.
- Julien Ries (dir.), *Tratado de antropología de la religión*, vols. 3, 4 y 5, Madrid 2005.
- Karen Armstrong, *Una historia de Dios*, Barcelona 2006.
- S. Coleman - J. Elsner, *Pilgrimage. Past and Present in the World Religions*, Cambridge, Mass. 1995.
- S. Coleman - J.Eade (eds.), *Reframing Pilgrimage: Cultures in Motion*, London 2004.
- Linda Key Davidson – David Martin Gitlitz, *Pilgrimage: from the Ganges to Graceland: an encyclopedia*, Santa Barbara CA 2002.
- A. Morinis (ed.), *Sacred journeys: the anthropology of pilgrimage*, Westport – London 1992.
- Razaq Raj – Nigel D. Morpeth (eds.), *Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Festivals Management. An International Perspective*, CABI, Oxfordshire 2007.
- Robert A. Scott, *Miracle Cures. Saints, Pilgrimage, and the Healing Powers of Belief*, University of California Press, Berkeley CA 2011.
- Victor Turner, *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture*, New York 1977.