REL 3028

Sacred Places, Sacred Travels

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Spring Term 2027

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This class will be an exploration of various dimensions of pilgrimage in several major religious traditions, enhanced by the use of VR technology. We will explore the concept of sacred journeys through multiple lenses

in order to help place the rituals and beliefs in context. Students will utilize technology to “visit” these sacred sites around the world in a variety of different world religious traditions. In addition to the academic content, students will practice a variety of contemplative exercises to examine the inner journey that is central to the pilgrimage experience.

Textbook and Course Materials

Pilgrimage A Very Short Introduction

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Ian Reader

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication Date: 2015

Copyright Date: 2015

ISBN 10: 9780198718222

ISBN 13: 9780198718222

Chapters/Pages: Complete text

Pilgrimage Journeys of Meaning (Paperback) /anglais

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: STANFORD PETER

Publisher: THAMES HUDSON

Publication Date: 2022-04-13

Copyright Date: 2022

ISBN 10: 9780500296639

ISBN 13: 9780500296639

Chapters/Pages: Complete text

Sacred Earth Places of Peace and Power

Required/Recommended: Recommended

Authors: Martin Gray

Publisher: Sterling Publishing Company

Publication Date: 2007

Copyright Date: 2007

ISBN 10: 9781402747373

ISBN 13: 9781402747373

Description: Optional

Chapters/Pages: Complete text

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Recognize religious themes and concepts found in other cultures.

- Identify the meaning behind religious concepts and symbols connected with specific pilgrimage sites.
- Apply critical thinking to various topics in the field of religious studies.
- Think creatively about religious issues in the contemporary world.
- Develop their research skills and writing skills by completing an independent research project on a topic related to a pilgrimage site; this research will culminate in a substantial paper drawing on both primary and secondary sources.
- Present their research findings to their peers in the form of a presentation.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills, which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the Getting Started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact online** with the instructor and peers;
- **review and follow the course calendar** and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course **5 times** per week;
- **respond to discussions** by the due date specified;
- **respond to emails** within **2 days**;
- **submit assignments** by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- **log in** to the course **5 times** per week;
- **respond to emails** within **48 hours or less**;
- **grade assignments** and/or provide feedback within **2 weeks** of the assignment deadline.

Assignments & Assessments

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz"

from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements .

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**. For example, if a quiz has a closing time of 5:00 pm but the student begins the exam at 4:55 pm, the student will only have 5 minutes to complete the quiz.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services .

Quizzes

There will be fully online quizzes covering each section. Your quiz scores will be averaged together for a final quiz score worth 15% of your final grade. All quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice and T/F questions, and each question will be worth 10 points. A quiz will be available from Monday 12:00 am till Monday 11:59 pm of the given week. Once you open a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete and submit it. You will have two attempts to take a quiz. The highest score will be counted.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements .

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services .

Exams

There will be TWO non-cumulative exams based on the readings and materials covered throughout the course. Each exam will be worth 10% of your final grade. All exams consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, true/false, each worth 2 points, and essay questions worth 10 points each. Exams must be taken during their availability period. Once you open an exam, you will have 60 minutes to complete and submit it.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum hardware requirements .

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact FIU Online Support Services .

Exams 1 and 2 will use Honorlock as a proctoring tool. For more information regarding Honorlock, please see the Honorlock FAQs page.

Journal Reflections

There will be weekly journal reflections, which will only be seen by the student and the professor. These reflections will only be graded that they were completed, but not for content. This will provide an opportunity for students to interact privately with the professor in regard to the course content. Journals may be a short paragraph, but must be turned in on time to receive credit. Altogether, the journal entries will be worth 15% of your overall grade.

Annotation Assignments

You will access the book chapters through Perusall, a tool for collaborative annotations. You are required to contribute at least 4 high-quality annotations for every chapter and are encouraged to interact with your peers by commenting on their annotations. Collectively, your Perusall Annotations will be worth 18% of your overall grade.

Blogs

Blogs are an open communication tool for students to share their thoughts. Here you can post text, images, links and attachments, open for comments. These will be completed within Discussions on Canvas. Blogs can be found in Discussion on the course menu or within the content area of the course.

- There will be fourteen course blog topics. The topics will be posted in the "Discussion" in the Course Content. Students must post well thought-out comments based on the required work throughout the semester. Participation is required and

represents 15% of your final grade. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade. All students are required to participate in all the three topics (at least 200 words). Blogs must be posted during the period they are assigned and are due by 11:59 pm on the Monday that ends that particular lesson.

- Once you have composed your original posting, take some time to carefully review other postings within your discussion group. Pick two that are most interesting to you and provide meaningful, detailed, and constructive feedback.
- Keep in mind that your blog postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Sacred Travel Pilgrimage Itinerary & Presentation

For this project, you will become a pilgrimage travel planner and researcher. Your task is to design a digital travel itinerary for a pilgrimage destination of your choice. Your itinerary should introduce a particular sacred destination, explain its religious and cultural significance, and guide a hypothetical pilgrim through a meaningful journey. The written segment of

the project is worth 10% of your overall grade.

After you have written your travel itinerary, you will also create your own web page for your itinerary. This webpage will be shared with the class. This presentation webpage is worth 10% of your overall grade.

Further instructions for both sections of this project can be found in the Sacred Travel Pilgrimage Module of the class.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points of Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Biography	1	10	10	2%
Journal	14	1	14	10%
Perusall Annotations	18	10	180	18%
Blogs	14	10	140	15%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points of Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	13	100	1300	15%
Exams	2	100	200	20%
Sacred Pilgrimage Project	1	100	100	10%
Sacred Pilgrimage Web Page Presentation	1	100	100	10%
Total	**64**	**N/A**	**2044**	**100%**

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
A	95 - 100
A-	90 – 94.99
B+	87 – 89.99

Letter Grade	Sample Range %
B	83 – 86.99
B-	80 – 82.99
C+	77 – 79.99
C	70 – 76.99
D	60 – 69.99
F	0 – 59.99

Proctored Exams

This course uses Honorlock on the exams. For more information, please refer to Honorlock FAQ page.

Please visit our Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

UNIT I: FOUNDATIONS OF PILGRIMAGE
What Is Pilgrimage?

Sacred Space and Sacred Geography
The Mythic Journey: Stories, Places and Pilgrimage
Pilgrimage Theory: Ritual, Liminality, and Communitas
UNIT II: PILGRIMAGE, BODY, AND TRANSFORMATION
The Pilgrim's Body: Movement, Sacrifice, and Transformation
Healing, Miracles, and Sacred Power
Pilgrimage and Religious Identity
Midterm Exam
UNIT III: ROUTES, OBJECTS, AND LANDSCAPES
Pilgrimage Routes & Sacred Journeys
Relics, Shrines, and Sacred Objects
Mountains, Rivers, and Sacred Landscapes
UNIT IV: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
Gender, Power, and Politics of Sacred Space
Pilgrimage, Tourism, and Globalization
Digital and Virtual Pilgrimage in the Modern World
Presentations
Finals Week

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **the Canvas Inbox**. Check out the Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using the Canvas Inbox.

I will respond to all correspondence within **2 days**.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the Zoom Student Tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the Zoom Test Meeting Room to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the FIU Canvas Help Team. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.