

RELI 322

**Pilgrimage: Travellers, Trekkers and Tourists
en Route to the Sacred**

2007



"Candlelight Procession in Scherpenheuvel ", a popular pilgrimage site in Flemish Brabant

SCHOOL OF ART HISTORY, CLASSICS & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

SUMMER 2007- 2008

RELI 322

Pilgrimage: Travellers, Trekkers and Tourists en Route to the Sacred

Course co-ordinator: Negar Partow
Negar.partow@vuw.ac.nz

Tutor Daniel Dowling
dddd@hotmail.com

Where and when: Lectures: HU 220
Thursdays: 05:30 – 8:30 pm
Tutorials: Times and place to be advised.

Religious Studies is in the Hunter Building. The programme administrator, Aliko Kalliabetsos, is in room HU 318 (ext 5299). **Notices regarding the course or any information on changes will be posted on the notice board outside her office.**

Office hours: The main office is open Monday - Friday, 9 .30 am – 12:00 noon and 2:30 – 4:00pm. You can arrange to meet with Negar during her office hours; Thursday: 1:00 pm- 5:30 pm, Tuesday: 1:00 pm- 5:30 pm

Course outline

- 1 This course provides an introduction to pilgrimage as a major religious ritual in various traditions. The course examines pilgrimage, its social and political implications in various religious communities.
- 2 **Course aims and objectives:**
 - **Firstly** to provide participants with an outline of the religious beliefs that are symbolically expressed in pilgrimage
 - **Secondly** to enable course participants to analyse, interpret and understand pilgrimage in pre-modern and modern contexts
 - **Thirdly** to familiarise students with methodologies of research in studies of religious rituals as an academic discipline, and to prepare them for further study in the history, social dynamics and practice of religion.
 - **Fourthly** to encourage students to critically engage with the issues and debates found in the scholarly literature on religious rituals.
 - **Fifthly** to provide students with the necessary skills and resources to undertake independent argument and analyses in the areas covered by the paper.
- 3 The **lecture programme** follows. Lectures may be varied from time to time. As much notice as possible will be given when changes occur and, if necessary a revised programme will be issued at lectures. The lecture programme does not cover the entire

course content. Lectures are important, but they must be viewed as complementary to your own reading in the field and to tutorial discussions.

4 **Tutorials are held weekly** and all students should attend these. Tutorials deal with topics which arise out of and which complement the lecture programme.

5 **The course is internally assessed** by means of the following:

- **an essay** of no more than **2,500** words, to be submitted by **14th December 2007** worth **35%** of the final grade.
- **an Essay** of no more than **3,500** words to be submitted by **25th January 2008** worth **45%** of the final grade.
- **7 tutorial assignments**, of no more than 500 words each, consisting of a thoughtful response to a given tutorial question from the assigned reading. The tutorial assignments will be marked out of 10 and account for a total of **20%** of the marks for the course.

The assessment of this course relates to these objectives in the following ways:

The tutorial assignments are designed to facilitate student reflection on the required readings, and to allow students to develop skills in critical reading and analysis necessary for essay writing and continued study.

The essays will encourage students to analyse a topic by focusing on primary sources, students will be exposed first-hand to the issues raised in scholarly analysis and will develop the knowledge and the skills necessary to critically evaluate scholarly studies of materials they have studied for themselves.

The differing percentage value for the essays is designed to allow students the opportunity to improve their skills without negative repercussions for their final grade.

6 **Mandatory course requirements** The minimum mandatory requirements for this course are the submission of 2 essays and 7 tutorial assignments and attendance at 80% of tutorials.

Required Text: All of the readings are contained in the Course Reader to be purchased from the Student Notes Shop at a cost of approx \$40.00.

Work-load (Recommendation of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) For 300-level 24 points one trimester courses, 16 hours per week are recommended. An average student should spend 12 hours per week for preparation, reading and writing in addition to attendance at lectures and tutorials.

300 – level 1 trimester 24 points 16 hours

7 **General University statutes and policies**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the VUW homepage at:

http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically at:

http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/downloads/course_outlines_general_information.pdf

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

8 **Academic grievances**

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

9 **Student and staff conduct**

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

10 **Students with Impairments** (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070 email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

11 **Student Support**

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contacts are **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses.
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

- 12 **Taping of Lectures:** All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form which advises of copy right and other relevant issues.
- 13 **Use of Turnitin:** Student work provided for assessment in this course *may be* checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. *At the discretion of the School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.* You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Class representatives: Class representatives are elected in the first week or two of the term. They are supported by the VUW Students' Association, and have a variety of roles, including assistance with grievances and student feedback to staff and VUWSA. Contact details for your class rep will be listed on the Religious Studies notice board.

Aegrotat regulations apply to internally assessed courses. Students who are ill, or who have difficult personal circumstances may be having problems completing assessment. The aegrotat provisions apply to all courses and apply to assessment which falls within the last three weeks of teaching or the final examination period, including preparation time for final tests and examinations.

Aegrotat provisions are detailed in section 4.5 of the Assessment Statute (2007 Calendar, p. 96) and also on p. 23 of the 2006 Assessment Handbook. Students can refer to the University's website for further information:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/timetables/aegrotat.aspx>.

Application forms and information pamphlets should be obtained from the Faculty Student and Academic Services Office (MY 411) or the Manager, Student & Academic Services (MY 410).

Student Learning Support Services: A range of workshops, drop-ins and other assistance is provided by SLSS, covering such things as study techniques, essay writing, exam preparation and note taking skills. They are at 14 Kelburn Parade, tel: 463 5999

Supplementary Materials: A website of materials related to RELI 205 is being maintained in Blackboard. You can find it by visiting <http://blackboard@vuw.ac.nz>. Your user name is the one issued to you by Student Computing Services. Your password is your Student ID Number. If in doubt, please contact the Student Computing Services Help Desk, 463-6666 (extension 6666 from VUW phones) or by email scs-help@vuw.ac.nz

14 Evaluation: This course will be evaluated by UTDC.

Lecture Programme

The required readings are essential background for the lectures / tutorials and should be completed **before each lecture**. The readings will be discussed in the tutorials. It is essential that you attend the lectures and the tutorials.

Week 1	Introduction	
22 November	What is pilgrimage, who is a pilgrim and what issues should be highlighted in studying religious rituals?	
Week 2	Las Vegas / Elvis	Rebecca Frost
29 November	Civil religion, war heroes and memorials	Charlotte Boyer
	Tourism and Pilgrimage	William Hoverd
Week 3	Hajj - Pilgrimage to Mecca	Anna Gade
6 December	Pilgrimage in the Christian Tradition: an overview	Chris Marshal
Week 4	Pilgrimage in Hinduism	Rick Weiss
13 December	Pilgrimage in Buddhism	Michael Radich
Week 5	Pilgrimage and Politics	Negar Partow
20 December	Summer break (22nd December 2007 – 2nd January 2008)	

Week 6 **Jerusalem: City of God** **Paul Morris**
10 January

**Theoretical Perspectives on pilgrimage:
Holy Centres, Ritual and Sacred Travel** **Jim Veitch**

Week 7 **Pilgrimage in the Sufi Tradition** **Art Buehler**
17 January

Pilgrimage in the Medieval World **David Maskill**

Week 8 **Travel and Sacred Space in the Ancient World** **Matthew**
24 January **Trundle**

Travel Pilgrimage in Late Imperial China **Duncan**
Campbell

Tutorials

Tutorial questions:

Week 2: Choose one of these questions:

- A:** What is the significance of ANZAC day in New Zealand?
- B:** What do attract people to Graceland?
- C:** Why is the eternal fire important for Zoroastrians?

Week 3: Choose one of the following questions:

- A:** Explain one aspect (social, political, economic) of pilgrimage to Mecca for Muslims
- B:** What is the importance of sacred places in Christian pilgrimage?

Week 4: Choose one of the following questions:

- A:** What is the significance of pilgrimage in Hinduism?
- B:** What is the significance of pilgrimage as explained in DN 16 *Mahāparinibbāna sutta*?

Week 5: Discuss the relationship between pilgrimage and politics

Week 6: Choose one of the following questions:

- A:** What is the importance of Jerusalem in Judaism?
- B:** Are tourists fake pilgrims?

Week 7: Choose one of the following questions

- A:** Why are the miracles associated with Nizamuddin significant in Sufi pilgrimage?
- B:** What is the significance of art in medieval pilgrimage?

Essays

The essays should be a thoughtful treatment of a well-defined topic, based on your own thinking and research. The participants are encouraged to come up with their own essay topics, but it is essential that they first discuss their plans with the lecturer.

1 **Essays and assignments** must be placed in the locked assignment box located near the Administrator's office (HU 318) and students must date and sign the essay register when submitting an essay. **No responsibility will be taken for assignments for which there is no record. Students should keep a copy of all their work until it is returned.**

2 **Due dates:**
The first essay to be submitted on **14th December 2007**
The second essay to be submitted on **25th January 2008,**

3 **Penalties for late essays / assignments:**

- 1 percent point per 24 hours will be deducted for late essays, up to 2 weeks from due date
- to avoid these deductions an extension may be sought with an explanation in writing. The reason for the extension does not need to be medical; in the event that it is, a medical certificate must be submitted
- requests for extensions may be made to the tutor or the course co-ordinator
- if an essay is handed in 2 weeks after the due date and an extension has not been sought the matter will be referred to the course co-ordinator who will make the final decision as to whether the essay shall be accepted for assessment or not

4 **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet,

software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct

(www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely.

Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

5 Essay topics:

First Essay:

- Discuss the relationship between pilgrimage rituals and religious cosmology (choose a religious tradition as case study)
- Define Pilgrimage
- Analyse the role of literature in pilgrimage (choose a case study).
- Discuss the relationship between symbolic meaning of pilgrimage and religious beliefs (choose a case study)
- Define a methodology for studying religious pilgrimage ritual
- What is the significance of pilgrimage in the modern world?
- What is the political/social implication of pilgrimage to Mecca in Islam?
- Analysis of the role of sacred sites in Hindu pilgrimage
- Critically discuss the role of memorial sites of national heroes in the construction of national identity
- What are the social implications of pilgrimage in a Buddhist Community?
- Discuss the role of religious institutions in pilgrimage (choose a case study)

Second essay:

- Provide an analytical account of religious pilgrimage rituals in China
- Critically discuss Eric Cohen's theory on pilgrimage and tourism.
- How is Jerusalem viewed in the Psalms and why?
- Critically discuss David Brown's theory on Pilgrimage
- How is the Sufi theme of love manifest through Nizamuddin?
- Discuss the politics of pilgrimage (choose a case study)
- Discuss the significance of sacred sites in Christianity
- Discuss the influence of pilgrimage in the political life of a community
- Discuss the role of religious institutions in pilgrimage (choose a case study)
- How is the ritual of pilgrimage related to national history?