

Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago TH 2291
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Spring 2018
Tuesday, 12:30-1:30

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Course Description

This one-credit course, which serves as a preparatory course for the June Travel Seminar to Northern Spain, introduces students to topics related to walking the Camino de Santiago, including the history and spirituality of pilgrimage, past and present Christian-Muslim relations, and the theology of nature.

Course Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Describe the history and theological importance of pilgrimage in northern Spain.
2. Articulate important elements of pilgrimage practices in other religious traditions
3. Demonstrate ecumenical and interreligious intelligence, particularly with respect to Christian and Muslim relations
4. Show awareness of spiritual components of pilgrimage, including humanity's relation to the natural world

Course Policies:

Academic Honesty: All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:
American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.
Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
The Chicago Manual of Style. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Accessibility and Accommodation: Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructors as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Inclusive Language: In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. More discussion about inclusive language can be accessed from the Academic Support Center and from the section of the LPTS web site with information for current students.

Policy on late work: All written assignments are due on the date given in the syllabus. Assignments submitted late will be penalized in the grading by one letter grade increment for every day (a B+ paper becomes a B if one day late, a B- if two days, a C+ if three days, etc.). Assignments submitted more than ten days after the due date will not be accepted.

Use of electronic devices in class: We ask that everyone create a time and space in the classroom to set aside such distractions as email, Facebook, and texting in order to engage our minds and hearts. Do not send or read text messages during class. In the event that you have a legitimate need to be accessible during class, you may ask me for an exception to this rule. Laptops should not be used if you cannot trust yourself to restrict your use to note-taking. You may not access the Internet during class time. Any misuse of electronic devices during class time, including checking of email or social networking sites, will be grounds for dismissal from the session and will negatively affect the course grade.

Required Book

William Melczer, *The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago de Compostela* (Italica Press, 1993) (referred to as Melczer in the syllabus)

Assignments & Evaluation

1) Attendance and Class Participation (20% of final grade)

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend "all scheduled meetings of the courses" excepting illness or "other valid reasons." In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify us of their planned absence from class preferably prior to the session. Tardiness also affects classroom dynamics; please make every effort to be ready to start class on time.

Students should come to class eagerly ready to discuss the assigned readings. Active participation includes, but is not limited to, activities such as having read all assigned readings, listening carefully to others' thoughts, taking notes, asking relevant questions, responding to others' comments, and inviting others into the conversation.

2) Pilgrimage Journal (40% of final grade) **Summary Due May 4.**

Students are asked to purchase a physical journal and make weekly entries into it during the spring semester. These journals will also be used during the pilgrimage in June. For the spring

semester component of the course, the journal will contain 3 types of entries (organized as you wish).

1. First, students will develop **an account** of the major places, persons, and legends in the story of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage from apostolic times to the present. These should include maps to familiarize yourself with Spain's geography. This account should be developed in response to the question associated with each session. Students should bring to each class session their developing account in order to participate in discussions.
2. Second, students will take **notes on assigned readings** in order to increase retention of material and to use later during the pilgrimage. These notes can be in any format or style. The journal will be a place to jot down interesting tidbits or important points each week as you read.

3. Finally, students will write **spiritual reflections** related to the course content. Professors will check in on completion of this assignment as the course develops; however, students will not ever submit their entire journals. Students will write a **final 2-page summary** of their "learnings" based on their journal entries and photocopy some sample pages from the journal to submit to professors.

3) Camino Reflection Paper (40% of final grade) **Due Friday, June 22**

Students will write a 5-page reflection paper synthesizing their entire pilgrimage experience. This will entail drawing on the history and theology of pilgrimage, as well as the "inner" and "outer" waymarks of the student's individual experience on the Camino.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, February 6

Introduction to course & syllabus

Required Readings: Poems in the "Camino" section of David Whyte, *Pilgrim: Poems* (Langley, WA: Many Rivers Press, 2014), pp. 11-24 (CAMS)

Tuesday, February 13

Pilgrimage, *homo viator*

Required Readings:

Reader, Ian. *Pilgrimage: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 20-42. (CAMS)

Kujawa-Holbrook, Sheryl A. *Pilgrimage-The Sacred Act: Journey to the Center of the Heart* (Woodstock, Vermont: Skylight Paths, 2013): 18-27, 125-133, 196-198. (CAMS)

Journal Due Today: See journal assignment for Feb. 6 on CAMS

Tuesday, February 20

The Apostle James in the Bible and Spanish legend

Required Readings:

Melzcer, 1-14

Mark 1:16-34; 3:13-19; 5:22-4, 35-43; 9:2-8; 10:35-45; 14:32-42; Acts 12:1-5

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, February 27

Class Cancelled So Students Can Attend the LPTS Black Church Studies Consultation

Tuesday, March 6

Camino Logistics: How to prepare and what to bring

Tuesday, March 20

Muslim Presence in Spain and “Reconquista”

Required Readings:

Melzcer, 14-35

Olivia Remie Constable, ed., *Medieval Iberia* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997), Map, p. 28 (CAMS), 364-370

Kevin Madigan, *Medieval Christianity: A New History* (Yale University Press, 2015), 103-107, 115-116 (CAMS)

In class we will watch: *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain* (on library reserve)

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, March 27

Opening a new chapter in Christian-Muslim relations

Required Readings:

Joshua Ralston, “Bearing Witness: Reframing Christian-Muslim encounter in light of the refugee crisis” *Theology Today* 74:1 (April 2017): 22-35 (CAMS)

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, April 3

The experience of medieval pilgrimage

Required Readings:

Conrad Rudolph, *Pilgrimage to the End of the World* (University of Chicago Press, 2004), 1-16, 33-47 (CAMS)

Melzcer, 35-60; 83-134

Begin (or continue) a regimen of regular walking, gradually increasing the distance until you can walk 2-3 hours without stopping. We will also start planning group hikes.

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, April 10

Pilgrimage in other religious traditions

Required Readings:

Simon Coleman and John Elsner, *Pilgrimage Past and Present in the World Religions* (Harvard University Press, 1995). Read ch. 3, “The Centre in the Desert: Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca,” pp. 52-73 AND one other chapter of your choice (library reserve)

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, April 17

Secular pilgrimage

Required Readings:

Marion Grau, "The Camp is a Ceremony": A Report from Standing Rock (CAMS) *Religion Dispatches*, Nov. 25, 2016 <http://religiondispatches.org/decolonizing-thanksgiving-at-standing-rock-a-black-friday-report/> (CAMS)

P.J. Margry, *Shrines and Pilgrimage in the Modern World: New Itineraries into the Sacred*, pp. 24-28 (CAMS)

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, April 21

Walking the Camino

Required Readings:

John Brierley, *A Camino Pilgrim's Guide: Sarria-Santiago-Finisterre* (Camino Guides, 2016) (on library reserve) **NB: We recommend that you purchase your own copy of this booklet** *Please be prepared to sign up for the segment of our trip for which you will be the resident expert.*

Journal Due Today:

Tuesday, May 1 (meet at the Labyrinth on campus)

Pilgrimage as a way of life

Required Readings:

Paul J. Philibert: "Pilgrimage to Wholeness: An Image of the Christian life," in *Pilgrimage*, eds. Elizondo and Freyne (Concilium 1996/4 SCM Press, 1996), pp. 79-91 (CAMS)

Journal Due Today:

Additional assignment before we go:

Read Paulo Coelho, *The Pilgrimage: A Contemporary Quest for Ancient Wisdom* (Harper One, 1987).