

BOSTON COLLEGE
Spring semester, 2024

Self-Knowledge & Discernment: The Experience of Pilgrimage (PHIL/THEO4495)

Meetings: Wednesday, 7am-8:50am: Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24

Classroom: 36 College Road (lower level): Center for Ignatian Spirituality

+ *Week-end retreat in New Hampshire: Friday, March 15 (afternoon) until March 17 (afternoon)*

+ *City walk (May 4, morning)*

+ *On the Camino: May 23 (meeting in Leon in the early afternoon) to June 8 (or 7): leaving Santiago de Compostela.*

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Office hours/Tea time: Monday, 3-4 pm (drop-in), or by email appointment (Monday, 4-5pm or another time)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide some of the theological, philosophical, and historical resources needed to render an extended walk on the Camino de Santiago, one of the great pilgrimage routes of the Christian world, a time of reflection and discernment that we undertake both as individuals and as a class community.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. On-going contribution to the class and journal (1/3 of the final grade)

There are three expectations.

A) Read and take notes on the **assigned readings**. Prepare a personal summary (for yourself!) of the readings / highlights / questions (some students will be called on that each week). For each class, write a ~ **250-word reflection** about what is most interesting, challenging, or insightful from the readings (academic journal/diary). The reflection should be posted on Canvas the night before the class in the discussion board of the week.

B) Complete the assigned **experiential exercises** (usually a walk) and their related journal entries. No length is prescribed (it can be a paragraph, a page, two pages). Journal entries are graded on timely and full completion. The prompt will be given at the end of the previous class. *Note: students are encouraged to begin walking significant distances early in the semester in order to be ready for the Camino.*

C) Contribute to the class learning experience through **active participation**: attentive listening, insights, comments, questions, etc. *Note: This assignment pertains to the meetings during the*

Spring semester. On the Camino (and on the retreat), we will have opportunities to share, discuss, etc., but it will not be graded. Participation will nonetheless be required!

2. Concise research papers (1/3 of the final grade)

Two five-page papers (~ 1,250 words, without the bibliography) on readings or themes of particular interest to you. These papers should pursue the central themes or questions of those readings more deeply into the authors' work, and into the questions or themes themselves. The focus and aim of each paper should be approved by the instructor at least two weeks before submission. The first paper is due March 13, and the second, April 26. We will meet individually to discuss your papers in the week of April 29.

3. Final Paper (1/3 of the final grade)

There will be a final paper of 3500-4000 words on the experience and theology/philosophy of pilgrimage. It should be completed after the return from the Camino. It must involve both personal narrative and some of the readings. It is due on July 31 (uploaded on Canvas *and* sent by email).

As you may notice, the "performance" on the Camino is not graded. The rhythm will shift as we will move from a purely academic environment in the classroom in the Spring to an experiential environment – involving nonetheless an intellectual dimension.

Required Books:

Ignatius of Loyola. *Testament* (also called *Pilgrim's Story* or *Autobiography*); e.g., Câmara, Luís Gonçalves da. *A Pilgrim's Testament: the Memoirs of St. Ignatius of Loyola*. Revised Edition. Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts: Institute of Jesuit Sources at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College, 2020.

[or Ignatius of Loyola, "Autobiography," in *Spiritual Exercises and Selected Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality), Edited by George E. Ganss, New York: Paulist, 1991, p. 65-111] (*Note: you can use another edition. FYI, the original is in Spanish and Italian*). Make sure to read the prefaces by Nadal and Câmara, which are not included in all editions.]

Gros, Frédéric. *A Philosophy of Walking*. London: Verso, 2014. [*Note: there are different editions, and you can also read the original French if you prefer.*]

Bloechl, Jeffrey, and André Brouillette, eds. *Pilgrimage as Spiritual Practice: A Handbook for Teachers, Wayfarers, and Guides*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2022. [[Available online from BC Libraries](#)]

Webb, Diana. *Medieval European Pilgrimage*, New York: Palgrave, 2002. [[Available online from BC Libraries](#)]

The other readings will be available on Canvas

Other books used or of interest:

Bartholomew, Craig, and Fred Hughes, eds. *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2004)

- Brouillette, André. *The Pilgrim Paradigm: Faith in Motion*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2021
- Coleman, Simon and John Elsner, *Pilgrimage. Past and Present in the World Religions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995)
- Frey, Nancy Louise. *Pilgrim Stories. On and Off the Road to Santiago*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998)
- Jenkins, Kathleen E. *Walking the Way Together: How Families Connect on the Camino de Santiago*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Pentkovsky, Aleksei, ed. *The Pilgrim's Tale*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.
- Turner, Victor Witter, and Edith L. B. Turner. *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.
- Whalen, Brett Edward, ed. *Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages: A Reader*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

CALENDAR OF READINGS

[Note: As we move forward in the semester, minor changes to the reading list might occur.]

■ Meeting 1: January 24: Different approaches to pilgrimage

Cavanaugh, William T. "Migrant, Tourist, Pilgrim, Monk: Mobility and Identity in a Global Age." *Theological Studies* 69 (2008): 340-356.

Turner, Victor Witter, and Edith L. B. Turner. "Chapter One: Introduction: Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon." In *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives*: 1-39. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Dyas, Dee. "Medieval Patterns of Pilgrimage: A Mirror for Today?" In *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage*, edited by Craig Bartholomew, and Fred Hughes, 92-109. Hants: Ashgate, 2004.

Brouillette, André. *The Pilgrim Paradigm: Faith in Motion*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2021 (Introduction + Chapter 1: p. 1-45)

For the journal reflection: Describe the place that walking has in your life. Do you walk much or mostly take a car, public transit or a bicycle? When do you typically walk? When you walk, what do you do as you walk: listen to music, talk with a friend, put your head down and get to your destination as fast as possible, or observe the world? Do you walk for transportation, for leisure, as recreation (such as hiking)? Have you ever been on a pilgrimage before and if so, what was it like? Close your essay with a desire that you have for going on this pilgrimage: what attracts you to pilgrimage and what do you hope to get out of the class and the trip?

Note: the other practical exercises will be announced from one meeting to the other.

■ Meeting 2: February 7: The Medieval Pilgrimage

Walker, Peter. "Pilgrimage in the early Church" in *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage*, 73-91

Webb, Diana. *Medieval European Pilgrimage*, New York: Palgrave, 2002.

■ Meeting 3: February 21: Pilgrimage in a theological lens

Bible (excerpts!)

McConville, J. G. "Pilgrimage and 'Place': An Old Testament View," in *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage*, edited by Craig Bartholomew, and Fred Hughes, 17-28. Farnham: Ashgate, 2004.

Walton, Heather, "Theological Perspectives on Christian Pilgrimage," in *Christian Pilgrimage, Landscape and Heritage: Journeying to the Sacred*, edited by Avril Maddrell, Veronica della Dora, Alessandro Scafi, and Heather Walton, 22-40. New York: Routledge, 2015.

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, "The Pilgrimage in the Great Jubilee" (April 25, 1998)

Pope John Paul II, "Bull of induction of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 *Incarnationis Mysterium*" (29 November 1998)

(Note: if you want to know what I think, you can have a look at chapter 2 of my *Pilgrim Paradigm*)

■ Meeting 4: March 13: Pilgrim Journeys of the Self

Ignatius of Loyola. *Testament* (also called *Pilgrim's Story* or *Autobiography*); e.g., Câmara, Luís Gonçalves da. *A Pilgrim's Testament: the Memoirs of St. Ignatius of Loyola*. Revised Edition. Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts: Institute of Jesuit Sources at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, Boston College, 2020. [or Ignatius of Loyola, "Autobiography," in *Spiritual Exercises and Selected Works* (Classics of Western Spirituality), Edited by George E. Ganss, New York: Paulist, 1991, p. 65-111] (Note: you can use another edition. FYI, the original is in Spanish and Italian). Make sure to read the prefaces by Nadal and Câmara, which are not included in all editions.]

Hamm, Dennis, "Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day," in *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, edited by George W. Traub, 104-113. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008.

Lonsdale, David, "Discernment of spirits," in *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, edited by George W. Traub, 171-191. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008.

Suggested reading: Pentkovsky, Aleksei, ed. *The Pilgrim's Tale*. New York: Paulist Press, 1999 (excerpts)

□ 1st paper due: March 13

□ *Week-end retreat in New Hampshire: Friday, March 15 (afternoon) until March 17 (afternoon) [We might have some light readings, but not a class session per se]*

■ Meeting 5: March 27: Pilgrimage, Philosophy and Body

Thoreau, Henry David. "Walking." In Emerson, Ralph Waldo, and Henry David Thoreau, *Nature, Walking*, edited by John Elder, 69-144. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1991.

Anthony, Cara. "Walking as Resistance to Hypermobility: The Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage," *Spiritus* 18 (2018): 1-13.

Gros, Frédéric. *A Philosophy of Walking*. London: Verso, 2014. [Note: there are different editions, and you can also read the original French if you prefer.]

■ Meeting 6: April 10: Pilgrimage in secular and non-Christian religious settings

Coleman, Simon and John Elsner, *Pilgrimage. Past and Present in the World Religions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995) (excerpts)

Bloechl, Jeffrey, and André Brouillette, eds. *Pilgrimage as Spiritual Practice: A Handbook for Teachers, Wayfarers, and Guides*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2022 (excerpts).

■ Meeting 7: April 24: The Experience of the Camino (& Beyond)

Movies: Phil's Camino + The Way

Frey, Nancy Louise. "Introduction: Arriving at the End," and "Arrivals and Endings." *Pilgrim Stories On and Off the Road to Santiago, Journeys Along an Ancient Way in Modern Spain*, 1-16, 137-152. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Barush, Kathryn R., "Vashon Island → Spain: A Backyard Camino." In *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience*, 17-56. New York: Bloomsbury, 2021.

Jenkins, Kathleen E. *Walking the Way Together: How Families Connect on the Camino de Santiago*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021 (excerpts).

□ 2nd paper due: April 26 (Individual discussion on the papers the following week)

□ *City walk (May 4 morning, details TBD)*

□ *On the Camino: May 23 (meeting in Leon in the early afternoon) to June 8 (or 7): leaving Santiago de Compostela.*

What to expect: different rhythm as a group (with the addition of Sarah Hansman, and Fr. Alberto Cano, SJ): phone fast, early start, words of reflection as a group, first hour walking in silence, touching base along the way, meeting at the albergue, time to relax, wash, etc., time to meet for mass, dinner, and, about every other night, discussion.

□ **Final paper is due July 31, 2024**, via email or Canvas upload, 3500-4500 words (approx. 10-12 pages).

We will also have a **reunion meal** in the fall after we have all returned to campus.

OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

Academic Integrity Policy:

Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one's own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another's words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT and Bard are transforming many fields of human activity. The academy is grappling progressively with this new reality which brings new possibilities, but also uncertainties and risks. AI tools can generate text, images, and other media very quickly, and aim at sounding human, and looking real. They can be very helpful and efficient for some tasks, but can also produce biased or plainly wrong results (e.g., "hallucinations"). With time, we will learn how to use these tools in an appropriate way. For this course, for now, you should always disclose in detail any use of AI tools when you submit an assignment. In some cases, a precise way of proceeding will be outlined for an assignment; make sure to adhere to it in order to foster your education. The submission of an assignment entirely produced by AI tools amounts to a violation of academic integrity (i.e., plagiarism).

Bias-neutral and Inclusive Language

Language is not fixed or static, but is constantly evolving and changing as society's attitudes and practices change. Be aware of the development of new forms of expression that endeavor to describe persons in non-discriminatory ways that are appropriate, respectful and just. In accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style and generally accepted contemporary canons of scholarship, the expectation is to use bias neutral language in academic writing. In addition to gender inclusive language, conscientious effort should be made to use appropriate language with reference to race, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, social status, etc.

Teaching through disruption

In the event that classes cannot be held at the school (e.g., because of a snow storm), the instruction is not necessarily cancelled. Synchronistic or asynchronistic modes of learning might be used. Hence, students are **required** to consult the Canvas site of the course and their BC email account prior to the scheduled class time for instructions regarding the learning experience through disruption. The tools used could be recorded lectures, submission of short written assignments, comments on other students' assignments, online discussion, etc.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with the [Connors Family Learning Center](#) (learning disabilities and ADHD) or the [Disability Services Office](#) (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Numerical Grading Scale for this Course

All assignments for this course are graded numerically (in the French style, out of 20), according to the following scale. At the end of the course, the final grade appearing on Agora (not on Canvas) will use the same scale in reverse.

12 and less = F

13/20 = C

14/20 = C+

15/20 = B-

16/20 = B (competent)

17/20 = B+

18/20 = A-

19/20 = A

20/20: does not exist!

At the end of the semester, while reverting from numerical grade to letter grade, I use the following scale: 92-100 % (i.e., 92-95%): A | 88-91.99%: A- | 84-87.99%: B+ | 79-83.99%: B | 74-78.99%: B- | 70-73.99%: C+ | 65-69.99%: C | less than 65%: F

as of January 16, 2024