

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.  
— T. S. Eliot , Little Gidding

## **REL 3938 (6872) Sacred Journeys** *(Spring 2013)*

**TIME:** Tuesday 4/Thursday 4-5  
**PLACE:** Flint 121  
**CREDITS:** 3 Semester Hours  
-Fulfills Humanities Gen. Ed. and 6 Gordon Rule  
**INSTRUCTOR:** David G. Hackett  
Office - 122 Anderson Hall  
Office Hours - Tuesday 11:45-1:40 and by appointment  
Phone 273-2929; E-Mail [dhackett@ufl.edu](mailto:dhackett@ufl.edu)

**ENROLLMENT:** 25  
**FORMAT:** Discussion  
**DESCRIPTION:**

An old adage states that "life is a journey." One might even go so far as to call it a "sacred journey." We each grow into our place in the human family and into what some believe to be a larger transcendent reality. Whatever way you want to look at it, the religious quest has always involved a sacred journey. From ancient pilgrimages through to the contemporary yearning for inner peace, the people of the world have pushed off from familiar surroundings to travel in quest of the heart of religious meaning. Following this path, this course will explore the many meanings of the sacred journey through outer and inner pilgrimages, voyages through and across cultures, and student visits to "sacred" sites. Through four successive stages we will together push off from the comforts of the known and return hopefully challenged and changed by our voyage of discovery.

### **COURSE GOALS**

- 1) learn how to reflect critically on how you arrived at your beliefs and values and bring to consciousness the degree that these might be shaped by outlooks in the various cultures and subcultures in which you participate.
- 2) develop a more sophisticated understanding of the place of religion in human experience.
- 3) become aware of the nature of the sacred journey.
- 4) improve skills in writing and constructing persuasive arguments
- 5) create an interactive community of learners engaged in a common quest

### **EVALUATION METHODS**

- 1) Attendance
- 2) "Heard on the Street" (5%)
- 3) Two in-class short presentations on required readings (10%).
- 4) Four short papers (50%)
- 5) Three tests (35%)

## REQUIRED BOOKS:

Herman Hesse, Siddhartha (any edition will do)

Carlos Castenada, The Teachings of Don Juan (Berkeley: California, 2008)

John S. Dunne, The Reasons of the Heart: A Journey into Solitude and Back Again into the Human Circle, (South Bend: Notre Dame, 1979)

Robert Bellah et al Habits of the Heart Second Edition (Berkeley: California, 1996)

A spirituality book of your own choosing (to be discussed)

## REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND RESOURCES:

**1) Attendance.** Class attendance is required. *If you are absent from more than three classes without a written excuse, your final grade will be reduced one-third of a grade (e.g. B+ to B) for every absence after the first three.* If you arrive late to class or leave early, I reserve the right to mark you absent.

**2) Heard on the street (5% of grade).** ONCE you will be responsible for presenting some contemporary religious issue that you have recently read or heard about and you believe needs some common exploration by the class. *What you are going to discuss, and why you think it is important, should be emailed to me prior to class* You will be assigned your day for completing this task on the first days of class and according to the list of class members.

**3) In-class seminar presentations (10% total - 5% each).** Two times you will make a brief, 5 minute presentation (about 2 pages, 600 words, double-spaced) to the class introducing a specific reading or readings. Your presentation should analyze the reading's primary themes and identify any problematic elements in it, and must offer questions to guide reading discussion. Your presentation is due to me as an email attachment by 6:00 p.m. the day before the class meeting in which the reading is discussed. Late presentations will lose one-third of a grade (e.g. B+ to B). You will be assigned your day for completing this task on the first days of class and according to the list of class members

**3) Short papers (50%).** You will write four short papers. Assignment dates, due dates, recommended length, and % of final grade are as follows.

First Paper - *Religious Autobiography*: Assigned 1/10, Due 1/15, 3 pages (900 words), 5%

Second Paper - *Fieldwork*: Assigned 1/17, Due 1/31, 5 pages (1,500 words), 15%

Third Paper - *Reflection Paper* Assigned 2/12, Due 2/26, 4 pages (1,200 words) 10%

Fourth Paper - *Final Paper* Assigned 4/2, Due 4/23, 5 pages (1,500 words), 20%

*The first through third papers will be returned within one week of their due dates.*

**Late or Make-Up Papers:** You may receive an extension on an assignment only in extraordinary circumstances *and* with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each school day it is late.

*Papers will be graded according to the following criteria* An A essay demonstrates not only a factual command of the material but also the ability to construct a coherent and complex argument-driven thesis that is supported by evidence and presented in clear and accurate prose. A B grade will be assigned to essays that possess both an identifiable thesis and adequate factual command, but that lack sufficient detail, or clarity and/or complexity in thinking or writing. Grades in the C range reflect essays that lack a thesis, or that provide minimal detail or evidence, or that exhibit significant writing problems. D grades will be assigned to essays that are clearly inadequate in content, organization, and writing.

**4) Tests (35%).** You will take three tests. The first, on 1/29, will focus on the theoretical readings to date (10%). The second, due on 3/19, will be a take-home test intended to cover the main points in the readings of the third stage (15%). The third, due on 4/2, will also be a take-home and cover the main points in the stage four readings to date (10%).

**4) Common Courtesy.** Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls during class will be asked to leave. You may take notes on a laptop computer or other device, although the instructor reserves the right to ask you to turn off the computer. The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) to leave the class. Repeat violations of these rules will result in dismissal from the class.

**5) Honor Code.** On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html> Any student demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in any assignment for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code.

**6) Accommodation for Disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**7) Counseling Resources** available on campus for students:

- a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
- c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601

**8) Software Use.** All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to

monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

9) In accordance with the Faculty Senate resolution of December 14, 2006, the University of Florida's *grading scale* was changed effective with the Summer 2009 term to include minus grades. The decision was made in order to provide faculty with more options for assigning grades.

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

\*available on electronic course reserve

\*\*in-class hand-out

### Tuesday 1/8

#### *First Stage: Initial Assessment and Necessary Tools*

We will begin with where we are now. Students will write short papers that seek to place their life's journey to this point into some larger interpretive perspective. Where have we come from and how did we get here and what are the questions we are asking as we push off into the future? To equip us for our travels we will consider some theoretical tools on "the spiritual quest" and "rites of passage".

Orientation. No reading assignment.

#### *Tools for the Journey*

### Thursday 1/10

#### 1. The Spiritual Quest

##### Readings:

\*Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day" and "Wild Geese" from her New and Selected Poems (Boston: Beacon Press, 1992), 94, 110.

\*Ranier Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet (New York: Norton, 1954), 34-35.

\*Ernest Becker, The Denial of Death, (New York: Free Press, 1973), 1-8, 255-285.

Paper #1 Assigned: Your Journey So Far

## **Tuesday 1/15**

### 2. Rites of Passage

#### Readings:

\*Victor Turner. "Liminality and Communitas" in The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1969), 94-97, 106-113, and 125-130

\*Thomas Merton, "Epilogue: Fire Watch, July 4, 1952" The Sign of Jonas (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1953, 349-362.

Hand-in and discuss Paper #1.

## **Thursday 1/17**

### *Second Stage: Going Far Away*

With knowledge thus gained of where we imagine ourselves to be now and some interpretive tools to make sense of what is to follow, we will then go far away. Beginning with some discussions of stages of religious growth, and one fictional account of the Buddhist path to enlightenment, we will discuss the nature of the inner spiritual quest. This will be followed by several theoretical pieces on the nature of pilgrimage. (Before continuing further we will take stock of our theoretical knowledge to date through an in-class test). What is learned as we actually physically go out and see? We will seek to answer this question through two related tasks. First, there will be a fieldwork assignment where students themselves "go out and see" a religious service that is, to their minds, the furthest away from their own experience. This might be a visit to the local mosque, a primitive Baptist church, the Temple of the Universe, or perhaps a Catholic church or the Jewish Lubavitch house. Second, we will read two very different pilgrimage accounts: Carlos Castenada's, The Teachings of Don Juan and John Dunne's, The Reasons of the Heart and have the opportunity to reflect upon them in a short paper.

### 1. Stages of Faith

#### Readings:

\*James W. Fowler, "Stages of Faith," Faith Development and Pastoral Care (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), 57-77.

Paper #2 Assigned: Fieldwork

## **Tuesday 1/22**

### 2. Journey to Enlightenment

#### Reading:

Hesse, Siddhartha (all)

**Thursday 1/24**

3. Pilgrimage

Readings:

\*Victor Turner, "Pilgrimage as a Liminoid Phenomenon" in his Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture (New York: Columbia, 1978), 1-39.

\*Juan Campo, "American Pilgrimage Landscapes." Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science Volume 558 (July 1998), 40-56.

First Test Handed Out

**Tuesday 1/29**

First Test written in class

**Thursday 1/31**

Paper #2 Fieldwork - due. Discuss.

**Tuesday 2/5**

A. First Journey

Reading:

Carlos Castenada, The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge (Berkeley: California, 2008) 1-93

**Thursday 2/7**

Reading:

Castenada, Don Juan 94-152.

**Tuesday 2/12**

B. Second Journey

Reading:

John S. Dunne, The Reasons of the Heart: A Journey into Solitude and Back Again into the Human Circle, chapters 1-3

Paper #3 Assigned: Reflections Upon Two Journeys

**Thursday 2/14**

Reading:

Dunne, Reasons of the Heart, chapters 4-8

**Tuesday 2/19**

C. Interlude: Women and the Spiritual Journey

Readings:

\*Carol P. Christ, "Spiritual Quest and Women's Experience" in Womanspirit Rising (San Francisco, Harper, 1979), 228-245

\*Carol P. Christ, "Nothingness, Awakening, Insight, New Naming" in Diving Deep and Surfacing (Boston: Beacon, 1980), 13-26.

### **Thursday 2/21**

Third Stage: *Turning Toward Home: Journey through American Culture*

Before we can adequately begin to assess the journey thus far, we need to place the understandings we have gained within the context of the American culture in which our values have been shaped. We will begin by considering how religion has evolved throughout human history. We will then read the most probing historical account of the development of American religious and cultural values, Robert Bellah's Habits of the Heart. Situated within our American religious culture, we will write a take home test on the readings of this third stage and our place within this larger cultural milieu.

#### 1. Religious Evolution

Reading:

\*Robert Bellah "Religious Evolution" in his Beyond Belief (San Francisco: Harper and Row), 20-52.

### **Tuesday 2/26**

#### 2. Historical Journey through American Moral Culture

Reading:

Robert Bellah et al Habits of the Heart Second Edition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996) Introductory (Preface - 54)

Paper #3 Due

### **Thursday 3/28**

Readings:

Habits, Finding Oneself (28-85) "Love and Marriage" (85-112)

\*Scott Peck, from The Road Less Traveled (Simon and Schuster, 1978), 81-105.

\*Ranier Maria Rilke, from On Love and Other Difficulties ed. John J.L. Mood (New York: Norton, 1975), 25-37.

## **Spring Break**

**Tuesday 3/12**

Reading:

Habits, 219-296, Introduction to the Second Edition "The House Divided"

Take Home Test Assigned

**Thursday 3/14***Fourth Stage: Reintegration*

In returning back home we will try to gain some perspective on what is today understood as the spiritual quest by examining its place within the globalization and psychologization of religion. We will consider readings on each of these topics and take a test on their main points. We will end with a reading from the new conversation on spirituality and health. In order for any journey to move us forward in our education, we finally need to look back on all that we have read, seen, and discussed and write a final paper that provides a new understanding of where we are now and where we might imagine our journey will now lead us.

## 1. The Globalization of Religion

Reading:

\*Juergensmeyer, "Thinking Globally about Religion" in Global Religions, 3-26

**Tuesday 3/19**

Reading:

\*Thomas Tweed, "Diasporic Nationalism and Urban Landscape" in Hackett ed. Religion and American Culture: A Reader Second Edition (Routledge, 2003), 497-514.

\*Joanne Waghorne, "The Hindu Gods in a Split-Level World: The Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple in Suburban Washington, D.C." in David G. Hackett ed., Religion and American Culture: A Reader Second Edition (Routledge, 2003), 515-534.

Take Home Test Due

## 2. The Psychologization of Religion

**Thursday 3/21**

Readings:

\*J. Robert Smudski "The Crisis of Belief and the Psychologizing of Religion." Journal of Religion and Health, 15:2(1976), 94-99.



\*T. Jackson Lears, "From Salvation to Self-Realization: Advertising and the Therapeutic Roots of the Consumer Culture" in Lears and Richard Wightman Fox eds. The Culture of Consumption (Pantheon, 1983) 1-38.

**Tuesday 3/26**

Readings:

\*Leigh Schmidt, "The Easter Parade" in Hackett ed. Religion and American Culture: A Reader First Edition (Routledge, 1995), 247-270.

\*David Chidester, "The Church of Baseball, The Fetish of Coca Cola, and the Potlach of Rock 'n' Roll" in Hackett ed. Religion and American Culture: A Reader Second Edition (Routledge, 2003), 465-480

Third Test Assigned (Take Home)

**Thursday 3/28**      *NO CLASS*

3. Finding a Path with Heart

**Tuesday 4/2**

Reading:

Poems on Presence\*\*

Third Test Due

Final Paper Assigned

**Thursday 4/4**

Reading: TBD

Guest Lecturer

**Tuesday 4/9**

Reading: TBD

Class Presentations

**Thursday 4/11**

Reading: TBD

Class Presentations.

**Tuesday 4/17**

TBD

**Thursday 4/19**  
TBD

***Final Paper is Due on Tuesday 4/23***