

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2011

Discipline: Architectural History/Religion

ARH 4500: Sacred Spaces

REL G 2559-504: Sacred Spaces

Upper Division

Faculty Name: Mr. Nelson

Pre-requisites:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is sacred space? This course answers this question in three phases. The first will begin with a discussion of the various theoretical formulations for understanding sacred spaces. Thus, the first third of the class will be discussion-based. The second will begin an examination of those spaces commonly understood as sacred: places of worship. Lectures during this portion will examine ritual spaces among major world religions, investigating specifically the ways architecture shapes religious belief and practice in the past and the present. The final third of the class will explore more peripheral assertions of sanctity on space, including the home, places of memory and commemoration, natural landscapes, capital cities, even the shopping mall. This class will include both lecture and discussions of critical readings. Students will be expected to engage class readings critically and come to class prepared to discuss and debate the various methods put forth in the scholarship. Particular attention will be paid to those sacred spaces from countries we will be visiting on our voyage.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

UNIT 1: Theorizing Sacred Space

This unit is very reading intensive and class time will be spent entirely in discussion of the two articles assigned for that day. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the general argument of each article AND to defend the strength of one scholar over the other.

Day 1: Introductions

Day 2: Hierophanies

Readings:

Joel P. Brereton, "Sacred Space" in *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, ed. Mircea Eliade (New York: Simon and Schuster), vol. 11, 526-535.

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane*, Chapter 1, "Sacred Space and Making the World Sacred" (1957)

Gerardus van der Leeuw, *Religion in Essence and Manifestation*, Chapter 1, "Sacred Space." (1933)

Day 3: The Sacred and Ritual

Readings:

Victor Turner, *The Ritual Process*, Chapter 3, "Liminality and Communitas," p. 94-130.

Arnold Van Gennep, *The Rites of Passage*, (1909) chapter 2: "The Territorial Passage"

Day 4: Instability of the Sacred

Readings:

Yi-Fu Tuan, "Sacred Space: Explorations of an Idea" in Karl Butzer, ed. *Dimensions of Human Geography* (1978)

Jonathan Smith, *Map is not Territory: Studies in the Histories of Religions*, chapter 4 "The Wobbling Pivot"

Day 5: Perceiving the Sacred

Readings:

Richard H. Jackson and Roger Henrie, "Perceptions of Sacred Space," *Journal of Cultural Geography* 3 (1983).

Belden Lane, "Giving Voice to Place: Three Models for Understanding American Sacred Space," *Religion and American Culture* vol 11., no. 1 (Winter 2001): 53-82.

Day 6: Politics of the Sacred

Readings:

Chidester and Linenthal, "Introduction," *American Sacred Space* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995)

Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America"

Day 7: Sacred in the Everyday?

Readings:

Michel Leiris, "Sacred in Everyday Life" *The College of Sociology, 1937-39*, ed. Denis Hollier (Univ. of Minneapolis, 1988), 24.

Robert Orsi, "Everyday Miracles: The Study of Lived Religion," in *Lived Religion in America* (Princeton, 1997).

UNIT 2: World Religions in Place

This unit will be filled almost entirely with classroom lectures. While students will be expected to complete the reading, they will not be responsible for assessing the strength of the scholarly argument. These readings are intended solely as informational support to the lectures.

Day 8: Hinduism

Readings:

George Mitchell, *The Hindu Temple: an introduction to its meanings and forms* (1977), chapter 4, "The Temple as a Link between the Gods and Man," 61-77.

Day 9: Ancient Buddhism

Readings:

G. Roth, "The Symbolism of the Buddhist Stupa" in *The Stupa: Its Religious, Historical and*

Architectural Significance, 183-209.

Day 10: Shinto

Readings:

William Coaldrake, *Architecture and Authority in Japan* (Routledge, 1996), chapter 2, “The Grand Shrines of Ise and Izumo,” p. 16-51.

Day 11: Judaism

Readings:

Harold W. Turner, *From Temple to Meetinghouse: the theology and phenomenology of places of worship* (1979), 278-301

Day 12: Byzantine Christianity

Readings:

Rowland Mainstone, *Hagia Sophia: Architecture, Structure, and Liturgy of Justinian’s Great Church* (1988), chapter 6 “Justinian’s Church,” 145-159.

Day 13: Islam

Readings:

Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art* (Yale, 1973), Chapter 5, “Islamic Religious Art: The Mosque,” 104-138.

Day 14: Medieval Christianity

Readings:

Allan Doig, “Gothic Architecture and the Latin Rite” from *Liturgy and Architecture* (Ashgate), 2008: 169-196.

Day 15: Zen Buddhism

Readings: “Koto-in Zen Temple” from Thomas Barrie, *Spiritual Path, Sacred Place*, 180-213

UNIT 3: Broader Views on the Sacred

In this unit of the semester, classes will be a mixture of lectures and discussions based on the assigned readings.

Day 16: Sacred Memory

Readings:

Edward Linenthal, *Sacred Ground: Americans and their Battlefields*, “Introduction”
Maurice Halbwachs, *On Collective Memory*, chapter 6, “Religious Collective Memory”

Day 17: Nature as Sacred Space

Readings:

Belden C. Lane, *Landscapes of the Sacred: Geography and Narrative in American Spirituality*, (1988), Chapter 2, “Seeking a Sacred Center: Places and Themes in Native American Spirituality”
Dacher Keltner and Jonathan Haidt, “Approaching awe, a moral, spiritual, and aesthetic emotion”

Cognition and Emotion 17 (2003): 297-314

Day 18: The Sacred City

Readings:

Arthur Wright, "The Cosmology of the Chinese City," in *The City in Late Imperial China* (1977), ed. G. W. Skinner

Jeffrey F. Meyer, *Myths in Stone: Religious Dimensions of Washington D. C.*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), "The Axis of Power"

Day 19: Death, Life and Heaven

Readings:

Wayne E. Begley, "The Myth of the Taj Mahal and a New Theory of its Symbolic Meaning," *Art Bulletin* 61 (Mar. 1979): 7-37

Colleen McDannell, *Material Christianity: Religion and Popular Culture in America*, Chapter 4, "The Religious Symbolism of Laurel Hill Cemetery"

Day 20: The Home as Sacred Space

Readings:

Colleen McDannell, "Creating the Christian Home: Home Schooling in Contemporary America" in Chidester and Linenthal, *American Sacred Space*

"Tokonoma," from H. Engel, *The Japanese House* (1969)

Day 21: Museums as Sacred Spaces

Readings:

Carol Duncan, *Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums*, Chapter 1, "The Art Museum as Ritual"

Richard Kieckhefer, *Theology in Stone*, chapter 3, "Aesthetic Impact"

Day 22: Shopping Malls as Sacred Space

Readings:

Ira Zepp, *The New Religious Image of Urban America: the shopping mall as ceremonial space*, Chapter 3 "The Shopping Mall as Sacred Space"

Kimon Sargeant, *Seeker Churches* (2000), chapter 5, "The Shopping Mall Church"

Day 23: Public Religion

Readings:

Sally Promey, "The Public Display of Religion," in *The Visual Culture of American Religions*.

Matthew Glass, "'Alexanders All': Symbols of Conquest and Resistance at Mount Rushmore" in Chidester and Linenthal, *American Sacred Space*

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS (*At least twenty percent of the contact hours for each course.*)

FDPs: Students are expected to attend two FDPs as part of this class. These are required but not

graded. Options Include:

Morocco: visiting a mosque in either Casablanca or Fez

Japan: Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto, Horyuji Temple in Nara, or Ise Shrines in Ise

Field Work Presentation: Each student will be required to complete some form of a field work project, exploring some dimension of sacred spaces documented during the field study days on the voyage. These will likely be topics that find the student as the student is exploring during one of the country stops, or, more conventionally, students might select a topic before reaching a particular port. Either way, the student should be continuously looking for manifestations of the sacred in place during their in-country trips and exercises. Students will be required to make a 10 minute powerpoint presentation on their topic beginning in class on Day 16.

Field Work Paper: This 5 page paper [12 point font, standard margins] is the student's opportunity to bring the scholarship reviewed in class to bear on some site visited independently by the student, NOT as part of a Louis Nelson-led FDP. These papers are expected to introduce the site and then review the site by considering the site in light of at least THREE scholars we have read in class.

Paper grading:

Factual Content	33%
Critical Analysis	33%
Quality of the Prose	33%

Participation Policy:

This class presumes that students attend all classes. Each unexcused absence will result in a lost point on your final letter grade. Students are also expected to attend two class-associated FDPs.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

The student's final grade will be derived from the following:

Unit 1 Paper:	25%
Unit 2 Exam:	25%
Unit 3 Paper:	25%
Field Work Paper:	25%

Unit 1 Paper: This paper is a 5 page paper [12 point font, standard margins] standard margins dedicated to analyzing the theoretical literature of unit 1. Best papers will defend the strength of one or two theoretical frame(s) over others.

Unit 2 Exam: This exam is geared to testing student knowledge about the various religious

traditions and sites reviewed in the lectures and readings of unit 2. In addition to identifying key characteristics of various traditions, I will require definitions for some of the key terms used in class lectures. You will also be asked to write brief essays on themes and issues and to discuss buildings in relationship to one another based on the material presented in class and in the readings. You will find that to do well on the exams you MUST attend lectures.

Unit 3 Paper: This 10 page paper [12 point font, standard margins] is the student's opportunity to critique the scholarship reviewed in unit 3 of the class. This scholarship is far more experimental than that reviewed in earlier sections and in that way can be more (or less) compelling. Student papers are to be a critique of some collection (but not all) of the literature of this unit, again by demonstrating the strength of some scholars over the work of others.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

Mircea Eliade, *The Sacred and the Profane* (1957)

Harold W. Turner, *From Temple to Meetinghouse: the theology and phenomenology of places of worship* (1979)

G. Roth, *The Stupa: Its Religious, Historical and Architectural Significance*

George Mitchell, *The Hindu Temple: an introduction to its meanings and forms* (1977)

Oleg Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art* (Yale, 1973)

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

(All Materials will be available electronically)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None