

Religion 277: Travel and Ethics

Instructor: John Barbour

Autumn, 2013

Catalogue description of course: This course examines ethical issues raised by travel, as well as the ways that various ethical perspectives address these issues. Students consider the ethics of pilgrimage in world religions, tourism and its critics, Christian perspectives on intercultural travel, issues raised by study abroad, and theories of ethical travel in relation to ecotourism, sustainability, service, and other ideals.

Counts for Ethical Issues and Normative Perspectives (EIN) credit. Prerequisite: BTS-T course.

Required texts:

Bernard Adeney, *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*

Simon Coleman and John Elsner, *Pilgrimage: Past and Present in the World Religions* (PPP) [Out of print; reproduced version for sale in bookstore]

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Sharon Gmelch, *Tourists and Tourism: A Reader*, second edition (TT)

Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*

Dean MacCannell, *The Ethics of Sightseeing*

* = short readings on Moodle

ER = *Encyclopedia of Religion*, on line at <http://libraryguides.stolaf.edu/religion>

Please print out paper copies of all readings and bring to class.

Requirements for the Course:

1. Close reading of assigned texts; please bring this material to class.
2. Attendance and participation in class discussions. These affect your grade (25%):
 - A: Regular attendance; frequent contributions to discussion; contributions reveal a clear comprehension of the readings and issues being discussed; contributions are insightful and advance or deepen our conversations; efforts to help the class work well together as a group.
 - B: Regular attendance; steady and solid contributions to discussion in terms of the above criteria.
 - C or below: Erratic attendance; infrequent contributions to discussion; lack of preparation.
3. Two essays, approx. 5 pages (1500 words). Topics will be suggested. (25% each)
4. A final examination, which will probably be a take-home essay asking you to integrate your reading and thinking about travel throughout the course. (25%)

Class Schedule:

9/6 Introduction to the Course

I. The Ethics of Pilgrimage in World Religions

9/9 Classical and Jewish Journeys:

Pilgrimage Past and Present (PPP): Introduction and Chapter 1;

Encyclopedia of Religion (ER) 7145-47;

PPP, chapter 2. *ER*: 7161-62;

J. Kugelmass, "Rites of the Tribe" in *T. T.*

9/11,13 Christian Journeys: early and medieval

Articles on Christian pilgrimage from *ER*, pp. 7148-54;

PPP, chapters 4 and 5

"The Peregrination of Egeria"; *

Sir Walter Raleigh, "The Passionate Man's Pilgrimage" *

Peter Walker, "Pilgrimage in the Early Church" *

Judith Adler, "The Holy Man as Traveler and Travel Attraction" *

9/16 Christian journeys: Protestant views

Graham Tomlin, "Protestants and Pilgrimage" *

John Bunyan, excerpt from *The Pilgrim's Progress* **

Jonathan Edwards, "The Christian Pilgrim" *

T. S. Eliot, "Journey of the Magi" *

9/18,20 Muslim journeys:

Articles in *ER*: 7155-61; *PPP*, chapter 3;

Malcolm X, "Mecca" *

Jalal Al-e Ahmad, (excerpt from his *Lost in the Crowd*) *

9/23 Buddhist Pilgrimage: *PPP*, chapter 7;

ER, 7163-68;

Oliver Statler, "Japanese Pilgrimage" *

Bardwell Smith, "In Contrast to Sentimentality: Buddhist and Christian Sobriety" *

"Introduction" by the Dalai Lama (to *The Heart of the World*) *

9/25,27 "Spiritual Tourism" in the contemporary world

Michael Hill, "Inca of the Blood, Inca of the Soul: Embodiment, Emotion, and Racialization in the Peruvian Mystical Tourist Industry" (2008) *

Siv Ellen Kraft, "Religion and Spirituality in Lonely Planet's *India*" *

William Maxwell, "Pilgrimage" (1953) *

Alain de Botton, "On Anticipation" and "On Habit" from *The Art of Travel* *

9/30 Hindu Pilgrimage: *ER*, 7168-71; *PPP*, chapter 6

10/2 James Lochtefeld, *God's Gateway: Identity and Meaning in a Hindu Pilgrimage Place* (2010), chapters 1 and 7 *

10/3 (Thursday) Lecture by James Lochtefeld, 7:30 p. m. in Regents Hall 310

10/4 Lochtefeld, chapter 8 *; discuss this and his lecture with Professor Lochtefeld

II. The nature of Tourism: Anthropological Perspectives

10/7 Sharon Gmelch, "Why Tourism Matters" from her *Tourists and Tourism* (TT)
Dean MacCannell, "Sightseeing and Social Structure" (TT)
Dean MacCannell, *The Tourist*, chapter 5: "Staged Authenticity" *

10/9 Nelson Graburn, "Secular Ritual" (TT)
Orvar Lofgren, "The Global Beach" (TT)
Orvar Lofgren, "Looking for Tourists" from his *On Holiday: A History of Vacationing* *

10/11 Edward Bruner, "Introduction: Travel Stories Told and Retold," from *Culture on Tour: Ethnographies of Travel**
Jeremy MacClancy, "Paradise Postponed: Perspectives on Tourism," from his *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines**

First paper due

Fall Break

III. Colonial Travel, then and now

10/16,18 Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

10/21 Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*

IV. Christian Ethics and Intercultural Travel

10/23 Margaret Miles, "A Society of Aliens: Pilgrimage" from *Practicing Christianity: Critical Perspectives for an Embodied Spirituality* *
Patrick McCormick, "The Good Sojourner: Third World Tourism and the Call of Hospitality" *
Mary Midgley, "Trying out One's New Sword" *

10/25 Bernard Adeney, *Strange Virtues: Ethics in a Multicultural World*, chapters 1-2

10/28 Adeney, *Strange Virtues*, chapters 3-4,

10/30 Adeney, *Strange Virtues*, chapters 7-8

11/1 Adeney, *Strange Virtues*, chapters 9 & 10

V. Student Travel.

11/4 George Gmelch, "Let's Go Europe: What Student Tourists Really Learn" in *T. T.* Talya Zemach-Bersin, "Selling the World: Study Abroad Marketing and the Privatization of Global Citizenship." *

Anthony Ogden, "The View from the Veranda: Understanding Today's Colonial Student." *

11/6 John Barbour, "Tourist Traps and Guilt Trips"*

Judith Martin, "The Oldest Virtue"*

Ross Lewin and Greg Van Kirk, "It's Not about You: The UConn Social Entrepreneur Corps Global Commonwealth Study Abroad Model"*

11/8 Robert Huesca "How Facebook can Ruin Study Abroad" (2013) *

Robert Kaplan, "Being There," *The Atlantic* Nov. 2012 *

John Barbour, "Students Abroad as Pilgrims and Tourists" *

Penny Travlou, "Go Athens: A Journey to the Centre of the City" *

Jonathan Stern, "The Lonely Planet Guide to my Apartment" *

VI. Evaluating forms of Travel

11/11 The agency of locals:

Jon Abbink, "Tourism and its Discontents: Suri-Tourist Encounters in Southern Ethiopia" (*TT*)

Jill Sweet, "Let 'em Loose: Pueblo Indian Management of Tourism" (*TT*)

11/13 Sex and Romance:

Denise Brennan, "When Sex Tourists and Sex Workers Meet";

Deborah Pruitt and Suzanne LaFont, "Romance Tourism: Gender, /Race, and Power in Jamaica" (both in *TT*)

[optional: Hazel Tucker, "Negotiating Gender Relations and Identity between Locals and Tourists in Turkey" (*TT*)]

11/15 Authenticity and the marketing of culture:

Palma Ingles, "Performing Traditional Dances for Modern Tourists in the Amazon";

Elizabeth Garland, "The Authentic (In)Authentic: Bushman Anthro-Tourism";

Edward Bruner, "The Maasai and the Lion King" (All three in *TT*)

11/18 Tourism and Cultural Identity:

Amanda Stronza, "Through a New Mirror: Tourism and Identity in the Amazon" (TT);
Edward Bruner, "Tourism in Ghana: The Representation of Slavery and the Return of the Black Diaspora" (TT)

11/20 Dean MacCannell, *The Ethics of Sightseeing*, pp. 211-29, 3-12, 35-40.

11/22 MacCannell, pp. 41-80.

11/25 (Monday): No class; instructor at professional meeting.

11/26 (noon Tuesday) **Paper due** in my Religion Dept. mailbox (Old Main 130)

Thanksgiving Break

12/2 MacCannell, *The Ethics of Sightseeing*, pp. 117-37, 158-81

12/4 MacCannell, pp. 182-210

VII. The Future of Travel: Ecotourism, Sustainability, Service, and other ideals in theory and practice.

12/6,9,11 Polly Pattullo, "Sailing into the Sunset: The Cruise-Ship Industry" (TT);
Peter Sanchez and Kathleen Adams, "The Janus-Faced Character of Tourism in Cuba" (TT);
Martha Honey, "Giving a Grade to Costa Rica's Green Tourism" (TT)
Melissa Stevens, "Power Disparities and Community-Based Tourism in Vietnam" (TT);
Deborah McLaren, "Rethinking Tourism" (TT);
Sharon Gmelch, "Appendix C: Tourist Guidelines" (TT)
Valene Smith, "Sustainability" from *Hosts and Guests Revisited: Tourism Issues of the 21st Century* *
Rick Steves, "How to Travel as a Political Act" (2009) *

12/16 (Monday), 9-11 a.m. **Final Examination**

Useful links:

On academic integrity at St. Olaf College:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/integrity.html>

On the honor system:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/honor.html>

On disability services for students:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/services/asc/sds.html>

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) or Laura Knobel-Piehl (knobel@stolaf.edu) in the Academic Support Center (507-786-3288, Buntrock 108) as soon as possible to discuss accommodations. If you have already arranged accommodations through Student Accessibility Services, please ensure submission of your accommodation letter within the first two weeks of class. Accommodations will only be provided after the letter is submitted to me and with sufficient lead-time for me to arrange testing or other accommodations. Although I will receive the letter electronically, I expect you to initiate a conversation with me about the accommodations.

Bon voyage! Happy trails! Don't forget to write!

“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, *Four Quartets*