

**Self-Knowledge and Discernment:
The Experience of Pilgrimage**
PHIL/THEO 4495



Facade of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela
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Meetings:

Thursday 10-12, every other week: Fulton Hall
Additional 2-night weekend retreat: March xx-xx
17-Day Pilgrimage: June 1-17, 2021

Professor: Michael C. Magree, S.J.
Office: Stokes Hall North 345
Office Hours: TBD
Contact: frmagree@bc.edu (preferred); 617-552-3817 (Office)

Course Description:

This course surveys Christian theology of pilgrimage, in order to help students to grow in reflection, self-knowledge, and discernment. The course culminates in a group experience of seventeen days of walking pilgrimage on the famous *Camino* to the shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Only ten students will be selected for the course after an application and interview process. The course is taught from a Christian perspective,

professor will result in a deduction from the participation grade for that session.

Food: Food is not permitted in the classroom without explicit permission from the professor.

Grading:

1. 20%. Active participation.

There are three expectations: a) the student must do the readings assigned and come to class prepared with questions and comments; b) the student must actively participate, by being attentive to others' comments and by sharing her own reactions to and considerations of the readings; c) the student must do the assigned walks and the related journal entries for each class session. Journal entries are graded on timely and full completion and not on content. Students must begin walking significant distances early in the semester in order to be ready for the Camino.

2. 30% Papers.

Each student must complete two papers of 1000-1500 words. The paper topics will be assigned by the professor. The first paper is due March xx, 2021, and the second is due on the date and time of the assigned oral exam.

3. 20% Oral Exam.

There will be 20 minute oral exam on the readings during final exam days. Students will individually schedule this exam with the professor.

Meeting Two: February 4

Pilgrimage and Creation: God in Action

Bible: Genesis 1; Psalms 104, 139; John 1:1-18

Hopkins, Gerard Manley. "God's Grandeur," "As Kingfishers Catch Fire," "Spring and Fall," "Pied Beauty."

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.

Solnit, Rebecca. "Tracing a Headland," and "The Mind at Three Miles an Hour." In *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*: 3-29. New York: Viking Penguin, 2000.

Exercise 1: Bodily Awareness

Exercise 2: Creation Awareness

Meeting Three: February 18

Pilgrimage as Election: God Chooses (a) People for a Journey

Bible: Genesis 12-22; Exodus 1-24; First Letter of John

Jenson, Robert. "Israel," in *A Theology in Outline: Can These Bones Live?:* 13-25. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Webb, Diana. "Motives for Pilgrimage," and "Varieties of Pilgrim." In *Medieval European Pilgrimage, 700-1500*: 44-113. New York: Palgrave, 2002.

Baden, Joel S. "Exodus and Civil Rights." In *The Book of Exodus: A Biography*, 157-85. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019.

pilgrimage help a believer encounter Christ's redemption?

Interlude:

Retreat

March xx-xx, 2021

First Paper Due: March xx, 2021

Meeting Five: March 25

Pilgrimage and Memory: God in My Life

Augustine, *Confessions*, books 1-2 and 8-9

Stewart-Kroeker, Sarah. "Christ-Centered *Peregrinatio*: The Mediated Journey." In *Pilgrimage as Moral and Aesthetic Formation in Augustine's Thought*: 60-82. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Hamm, Dennis, S.J. "Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day," in G. Traub, SJ, *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader* (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008), pp. 104-113.

Sumption, Jonathan. "The Pursuit of the Miraculous," and "The Medicine of the Sick." In *The Age of Pilgrimage: The Medieval Journey to God*: 69-121. Mahwah, NJ: Hiddenspring, 2003.

Exercise 1: Labyrinth.

Exercise 2: Practice of the examen.

Meeting Six: April 8

Pilgrimage, Providence, and Hope: Depending on God's Help

Pieper, Josef. *On Hope*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.

Ignatius of Loyola. *A Pilgrim's Testament : The Memoirs of Saint Ignatius of Loyola - New Edition*. Edited by Barton Geger. Translated by Parmananda Divarkar. Boston: Jesuit Sources, 2020.

Sumption, Jonathan. "The Journey." In *The Age of Pilgrimage: The Medieval Journey to God*: 239-298. Mahwah, NJ: Hiddenspring, 2003.

Exercise: On whom do I depend? What control do I cling to? What is different about depending on God compared with depending on human beings?

Meeting Seven: April 22

The Goal of Pilgrimage: Journey to God

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae* I-II.4.7-8

Martin, Regis. "Heaven." In *The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Hell, Heaven*, 137-167.
San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1998.

Frey, Nancy Louise. "Introduction: Arriving