



Nazarene Theological Seminary

MASTER'S DEGREE MODULE COURSE¹

CED/SPF790 – *Pilgrimage & Formation*

Fall 2007

Tuesday, August 28 – Friday, September 7
8:00am – 12:15pm

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Course Description

This course uses the ancient Christian tradition of pilgrimage as a lens for examining the spiritually formative dimensions of movement and place in contemporary life. The class itself will be structured as a pilgrimage and students will be encouraged to more intentionally incorporate a pilgrimage dimension into their personal and community formation.

Course Objectives

This course provides students with the opportunity to:

1. Study the tradition of pilgrimage in Christianity and other religions.
2. Examine movement, travel, journey, and sacred places in their lives.
3. Identify potential for incorporating intentional pilgrimage into personal and communal spiritual practice.
4. Devise a plan for making a pilgrimage and/or leading others in a pilgrimage event.

As such, this course contributes to the fulfillment of the following ability statements for students in the *Course of Study* of ministerial education in the Church of the Nazarene²:

CONTENT

- CN20 Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry

COMPETENCY

- CP22 Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver a biblically sound, basic scheme of teaching/learning discipleship in culturally appropriate ways, using appropriate techniques and skills

¹ A course syllabus will sometimes go through more than one version, reflecting changes made by the instructor for pedagogical reasons as the course develops and unfolds. The document header indicates the version #. Students are responsible for the latest version of the syllabus which will be made available along with email notice on *Blackboard*.

² Source: *Handbook for Christian Ministries*, Course of Study Advisory Committee-USA Clergy Development (September 2005)

CHARACTER

- The development of a portfolio for assessing personal growth in character. This portfolio would include periodic self-assessment and assessment by significant others. These assessments would evaluate the minister with the "BE" categories
- CH6 Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation and the classic Christian disciplines as means of grace
- CH7 Ability to locate, understand, and use the resources for individual and corporate spiritual formation
- CH8 Ability to take responsibility for his or her own continuing spiritual development

CONTEXT

- CX1 Ability to discover sociological dynamics and trends and to apply that information to specific ministry settings

Course Reading

Required Common Texts:

- Cousineau, Phil. *The Art of Pilgrimage: The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred*. Conari Press, 1998. ISBN-10: 1573245097 / ISBN-13: 9781573245098
- George, Christian. *Sacred Travels: Recovering the Ancient Practice of Pilgrimage*. InterVarsity Press, 2006. ISBN-10: 0830835024 / ISBN-13: 9780830835027
- Sheldrake, Philip. *Living Between Worlds: Place and Journey in Celtic Spirituality*. Cowley Publications, 1995. ISBN-10: 1561011037 / ISBN-13: 9781561011032
- Tylenda, Joseph N., SJ. *A Pilgrim's Journey: The Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola (revised edition)*. Ignatius Press, 2001. ISBN-10: 0898708109 / ISBN-13: 9780898708103
- Wuthnow, Robert. *After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since the 1950s*. University of California Press, 1998. ISBN-10: 0520222288 / ISBN-13: 9780520222281

Optional Further Reading:

GENERAL STUDIES OF PILGRIMAGE:

- Bartholomew, Craig & Hughes, Fred (Eds.), *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage*. Aldershot, England/Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2004.
- Coleman, Simon & Elsner, John, *Pilgrimage: Past and Present in the World Religions*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Eade, John & Sallnow, Michael J. (Eds.). *Contesting the Sacred: The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage*. University of Illinois Press, 2000.
- Morinis, Alan (Ed.). *Sacred Journeys: The Anthropology of Pilgrimage*. Greenwood Press, 1992.
- Turner, Victor & Turner, Edith, *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture: Anthropological Perspectives*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1978.

CLASSIC PILGRIMAGE STORIES:

- Bunyan, John, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (W.R. Owens, Ed., *Oxford World's Classics*). New York: Oxford University Press, 1961/2003.
- Chaucer, Geoffrey, *The Canterbury Tales* (Nevill Coghill, trans., *Penguin Classics*). New York: Penguin Group, 1951/2003.

Pentkovsky, Aleksei (Ed.), *The Pilgrim's Tale* (T. Allan Smith, trans., *Classics of Western Spirituality*). New York: Paulist Press, 1999.

STUDIES OF SACRED PLACE/SPACE:

Norris, Kathleen, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*. New York: Mariner/Houghton Mifflin, 1993.

Lane, Belden C. *Landscapes of the Sacred: Geography and Narrative in American Spirituality (expanded edition)*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. (original edition, 1988)

_____. *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Lewis, Steven. *Landscape as Sacred Space: Metaphors for the Spiritual Journey*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2005.

Sheldrake, Philip, *Spaces for the Sacred: Place, Memory, and Identity*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

Pre-Class Assignments

1. Log onto the course *Blackboard* site <http://blackboard.nts.edu> and familiarize yourself with the course's online dimensions. If you are not a registered user, email blackboard@nts.edu immediately and request your password. NOTE: This course requires online participation; you are expected to have access to an adequate computer and observe all assignment deadlines.
2. Read Wuthnow (in its entirety), Sheldrake (in its entirety), George (in its entirety), and Cousineau (through p. 60).
3. Interview an older person and a younger person in your church about their spirituality, as a means of testing Wuthnow's categories of “dwelling/habitation spirituality” vs. “seeking spirituality”. Write up a summary of the interviews, including some verbatim, and then analyze your findings in terms of both cultural/sociological dynamics and theological understandings of sacred place and journey. Conclude by describing yourself as a dweller and/or seeker along with the theological rationale for affirming or critiquing your current identity. Maximum length: 10 pages. Submit the complete Interview Report via the Assignments tab in *Blackboard* no later than Friday, August 3.
4. Conduct a thorough inventory of “place” and “movement” in your experience, past and present, remembering and reflecting on such things as the houses you've lived in, the towns/cities/countries you've lived in, churches/denominational events you've attended, schools you've attended, jobs you've worked at, community gathering places, places where you've found a sense of the sacred/holy, family moves, family vacation trips, graduations, going to college/seminary, job changes/transitions, missions trips, commutes, bodily exercise, etc. Write up your inventory in a narrative/journaling style—you can incorporate lists, but do *not* structure the whole inventory in list form. Conclude with an analysis of your experience via the lens of “pilgrimage”, considering such questions as “When did I experience pilgrimage (either planned for or unexpected)?”, “When did I miss opportunities for pilgrimage?”, “To what places and/or journeys am I most drawn?”, “What areas of my life now provide potential for experiencing pilgrimage?” Maximum length: 10 pages. Submit the complete Inventory Report via the Assignments tab in *Blackboard* no later than Friday, August 17.

During the Class

1. Attendance is critical in an intensive course that includes significant opportunity for individual self-reflection and group interaction. To miss a single session is the equivalent of missing a week of class during a regular semester schedule. If you must miss a session, alternative readings and/or a project will be required.
2. The Class Schedule below includes themes, topics, & activities for each day of class, plus any reading or other assignments due that day.

Class Schedule:

	Class #1 Tue, Aug 28	Class #2 Wed, Aug 29	Class #3 Thu, Aug 30	Class #4 Fri, Aug 31
T H E M E S & S C S	Class Intro & Orientation	TBD	TBD	TBD
T O - D O	Read Tylanda, into – ch.1	Read Tylanda, chs.2-3	Read Tylanda, chs.4-5	Read Tylanda, chs.6-7

	Class #5 Mon, Sep 3	Class #6 Tue, Sep 4	Class #7 Wed, Sep 5	Class #8 Thu, Sep 6	Class #9 Fri, Sep 7
T H E M E S & S C S	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Conclusion & Retrospective
T O - D O	Read Tylanda, chs.8-9	Read Tylanda, chs.10-11	Read Cousineau, chs.3-4	Read Cousineau, chs.5-6	Read Cousineau, ch.7

Post-Class Assignments

1. Develop a personal pilgrimage plan for a period beginning November 2007 and extending at least a year. This plan will identify and describe a specific longing/call to which you are responding, a sacred “destination”, challenges you expect to encounter, and resources for the journey. The plan may include regular/rhythmic pilgrimage (e.g., daily, weekly, or monthly practice) and/or special one-time pilgrimage events. Submit the complete Personal Pilgrimage Plan via the Assignments tab in *Blackboard* no later than Friday, October 19.
2. Choose *one* of the following:
 - a. Develop a plan for helping to lead a community of yours (e.g., local church, youth group, Sunday School class, neighborhood, extended family, staff) on a formative pilgrimage. The plan should include the theology of pilgrimage that informs you as a developer/leader, a rationale for your choice of pilgrimage practice for this community, and an action plan with description of the logistics (who/what/when/where) for bringing the pilgrimage to reality. Advance approval of the choice of community & practice is required. Submit the complete Communal Pilgrimage Plan via the Assignments tab in *Blackboard* no later than Friday, November 16. *or*
 - b. Research a historical account of pilgrimage and write a paper exegeting the socio-cultural context and theological understandings that inform the account. Advance approval of the choice of historical account is required. Submit the complete Research Paper via the Assignments tab in *Blackboard* no later than Friday, November 9.

Summary of Due Dates

Friday, August 3	Interview Report
Friday, August 17	Inventory Report
Friday, October 19	Personal Pilgrimage Plan
Friday, November 9	Communal Pilgrimage Plan <i>or</i> Research Paper

Grading

Interview Report	20%
Inventory Report	20%
Class Participation	10%
Personal Pilgrimage Plan	20%
Communal Pilgrimage Plan or Research Paper	30%