

May 1, 2016

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS
RELIGION IN SPAIN (HONORS)
PROFESSOR ELIZABETH BUCAR
May 23-June 6, 2017**

HONORS 3309-THE ACT OF PILGRIMAGE

Course Description and Relation of Class to Topic of Enhancing Life

The Camino is a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago di Compostela in northwestern Spain, where, according to tradition, the remains of the apostle St. James are buried. The 200,000 pilgrims who walk the Camino annually have diverse motivations: from the recent divorcee trying to prove her independence, to the devout Christian hoping for an increased closeness to God, to the unemployed Spaniard contemplating his next steps. **However, most begin their journey optimistic that in a short period of time a substantial enhancement of life can take place through specific mechanisms, such as physical hardship and spatial displacement.** Students enrolled in this course will walk upon these well-trod routes, completing over 150 miles of the popular route to Santiago in northern Spain known as the French Way. This course is intended to immerse the student into the tradition, theology, culture, and environment of pilgrimage by having them perform the actions of a pilgrim to Santiago de Compostela.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to **describe** the role of ritual practice in religion in enhancing life; to **identify** major ecclesial art and architecture along the pilgrimage route; to **interpret** religious art objects, relics, and church in light of their historical contexts; and to **display** habits of critical and appreciative understanding of people different from themselves, particularly in regards to enhancing life.

Additional Expectations:

The nature of pilgrimage requires that students be able to walk 10-15 miles a day, and that they limit the personal items they bring on the trip (these details will be outlined by the instructor in the informational sessions). Moreover, students will not be allowed to use iPods, MP3, players, cell phones or any other electronic devices WHILE WALKING on the pilgrimage routes. Students will be informed of all the necessary equipment they will need as well as all the equipment they should leave behind.

Assignments:

4-page personal motivations for pilgrimage	10%
3-page interview analysis	10%
8-page reflection on Camino (How did Camino enhance your life?)	20%
Twelve 1-page daily summaries (of site visits and class discussion)	20%
Class participation	15%
1 Blog Entry	10%
Daily walks	10%
Pre-discussion QCC paragraph (question, comment, or critique)	5%

Schedule:

Day 15: Sunday 22nd May

Toledo – Rabanal del Camino

Topic: The Legend of St. James and Modern Motivations

Blog post: Melanie B.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary, Hand in notebooks on bus for grading, Motivations Paper due (at 5pm), Sketching in Rabanal (one 30-min sketch)

Readings:

- Nancy Louise Frey, "Pilgrims to Santiago," *Pilgrim Stories: On and Off the Road to Santiago* (University of California Press, 1998): 17-46.
- Nancy Louise Frey, "Journey Shaping," *Pilgrim Stories: On and Off the Road to Santiago* (University of California Press, 1998): 47-70.

May 1, 2016

- 7:30 Breakfast is served
- 8:15 Meet in the lobby, with your luggage, ready to board the coach.
- 8:30 Travel by coach to Rabanal del Camino, a small village, which continues the centuries-old tradition of caring for pilgrims before the steep climb up and over Monte Irago. There will be a stop en route. [4.5 hrs]
- 1:00 Check in; afternoon to work on motivations paper and explore Rabanal
- 5:00 Meet Professor Bucar in the hotel's salon for class [1.5 hrs]
- 6:45 Meet in the lobby to walk to Vespers with the Benedictine monks, who live in the nearby Monasterio de San Salvador del Monte Irago.
- 7:00 Vespers commence. Vespers are afternoon prayers which consist of hymns, psalms and canticles, and which are sung in Latin in the Gregorian tradition. Duration is 30 minutes.
- 8:00 At dinner tonight at Hostal Meson El Refugio

Day 16: Monday 23rd May
Rabanal del Camino

Topic: Monastic Life and Albergue

Blog post: Cameron A.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Richard McBrien, "Catholicism: Introduction," *Catholicism* (HarperCollins Publishers, 1994): 1-16.
- John Paul II, "Letter Concerning Pilgrimage," 1-7.

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 This morning we'll spend more time with the Benedictine monks order to learn more about the history of this relatively new order, and the details of their daily life. Our visit continues with a visit to the local albergue, or pilgrim's hostel, the Albergue Nuestra Señora de Pilar, where we'll meet the Albergue owners or "Hospitaleros". We'll obtain our pilgrims' passports or "credentials", and immerse ourselves in the heart of the pilgrim community.
- 1:00 Lunch in the Albergue Nuestra Senora del Pilar
- 6:30 Class discussion in hotel's salon [1.5 hrs] DAY ONE OF HEADSPACE
- 8:00 Dinner at La Posada de Gaspar

Day 17: Tuesday 24th May
Rabanal del Camino to Molinaseca (26,5 km)

Topic: Informal interviewing as a research method and Diary Writing as Community Building

Blog post: Amanda D.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Informal Interview Handout
- Annie Hesp, "Creating community: diary writing in first-person narratives from the Camino de Santiago," 78-94.

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Meet in lobby to depart
After the cross, you'll descend to Molinaseca, where you'll enter the village by way of the beautiful Romanesque bridge spanning the Rio Maruelo (the river is perfect for soaking tired pilgrim feet!). After you cross the bridge you will see the Hostal Restaurante El Palacio (a traditional stone building) right in front of you.
- 6:30 Class discussion
- 8:00 Dinner in hotel

Day 18: Wednesday 25th May
Molinaseca to Cacabelos (23 km)

Topic: "Authentic" Pilgrim Experience

May 1, 2016

Blog post: Leila H. and Sadye H.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Nancy Collins-Kreiner & N. Klot, "Pilgrimage tourism in the Holy Land: The behavior characteristics of Christian pilgrims," *GeoJournal* 50 (2000): 55-67.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

Negotiate your way out of the city, following Camino arrows and markers, and enter the fertile region of El Bierzo, home to vineyards, fruit trees and plots of vegetables. Your destination is the village of Cacabelos (here, be sure to visit the local church to see the surprising image of baby Jesus playing cards!) Follow the Camino through town. You'll find the Hostal Santa Maria on the Camino (Calle Santa Maria) about 700 m after entering the village of Cacabelos (and before crossing the Cua River).

6:30 Class discussion

7:50 Meet in lobby to walk to dinner

8:00 Dinner at La Moncloa

Day 19: Thursday 26th May

Cacabelos—Ambasmestas (walk 25 km)

Topic: Templar Knights and the Camino

Blog post: Jessica M.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary, Peer informal interview analysis due

Reading:

- Paulo Coelho, *The Pilgrimage: A Contemporary Quest for Ancient Wisdom* (HarperOne, 2008).

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

Shortly afterwards you'll arrive in the village of Ambasmestas and your lodgings, the Centro de Turismo Rural (CTR) Ambasmestas (a big stone building) located on the main road that traverses the village.

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner in hotel

Day 20: Friday 27th May

Ambasmestas—O Cebreiro (walk 15 km)

Topic: The Gendered Pilgrim

Blog post: Devin P.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Lena Gemzoe, "Big, Strong and Happy: Reimagining Femininity on the Way to Compostela." 37-53.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

Upon arriving in the hamlet, you'll find Hotel O Cebreiro adjacent to the church. The hotel runs a busy bar, restaurant and gift shop on the ground level (check-in takes place in the bar), and guest rooms are on the top level. Casa Valiña is right next door, and Venta Celta some 50 metres from here.

6:30 Class discussion in lounge of Casa Valina

8:00 Dinner

Day 21: Saturday 28th May

O Cebreiro—Triacastela (walk 21.3 km)

Topic: Theological Place

Blog post: Jenny K.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

May 1, 2016

- Mark Wynn, "God, Pilgrimage, and Acknowledgement of Place," *Religious Studies* 43 (2007): 145-163.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

Before arriving in both Ramil and Triacastela, the Camino will cross over an asphalted road. On the road you will see a sign indicating "Casa Pacios"/Triacastela. Turn right onto the asphalted road, following the signs, and continue walking for 2 km. Then, turn right onto a narrower paved road, direction "Casa Pacios"/Vilabella". Continue another 1 km before seeing the turn off (on your left) to the house "Casa Pacios". Walk along the long driveway until reaching your lovely rural accommodations.

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner

Day 22: Sunday 29th May

Triacastela—Sarria (walk 25.1 km)

Topic: Pilgrimage and Authority

Blog post: Sam T.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary, 2-hour silent walk

Reading:

- Matthew Loveland, "Pilgrimage, Religious Institutions, and the Construction of Orthodoxy," *Sociology of Religion* 69.3 (2008): 317-334.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

You will arrive in Sarria walking along a paved road. Turn right onto the first large avenue, called Rua Calvo Sotelo (ignoring the Camino arrows that cross straight over). Follow this busy commercial street, Rua Calvo Sotelo, for 1 km (passing through several intersections) until you arrive at Hotel Roma (on left side of road). The hotel is right by the train station (Estacion de Tren/Ferrocarril).

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner

Day 23: Monday 30th May

Sarria—Portomarin (walk 22.4 km)

Topic: Secular Pilgrimage

Blog post: Lucille T.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary, Hand in notebook for grading at dinner

Reading:

- Alexander Moore, "Walt Disney World: Bounded Ritual Space and the Playful Pilgrimage Center," *Anthropological Quarterly* 53.4 (1980): 207-218.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

After you cross the bridge over the reservoir turn right at the roundabout (the Camino continues straight ahead here up a steep flight of stairs) at the top of the stairs turn right and keep walking until you find a garden area, "Hotel Villajardín" it's a white building right at the top of the garden.

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner

Day 24: Tuesday 31st May

Rest Day in Portomarin

Topic: Final Paper Topics

Blog post: Vyshnavi C

No Reading, QCC, or Daily summary

7:00 Breakfast (from 7:00 onwards)

May 1, 2016

12:00 Class discussion about final paper topics

Day 25: Wednesday 1st June

Portomarin—Palas de Rei (walk 24.8 km)

Topic: Suffering and Meaningful Pain

Blog post: Kathleen O.

Option: Pre-dawn departure

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Elo Luik, "Meaningful Pain, Suffering, and the Narrative Construction of Pilgrimage Experience on the Camino de Santiago," (2012): 24-43.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

As soon as you enter the outskirts of Palas de Rei you'll see your accommodations for the evening, the Complejo La Cabaña on the right hand side of the path.

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner

Day 26: Thursday 2nd June

Palas de Rei to Arzua (walk 29.6 km)

Topic: Pilgrimage for Medical Cures

Blog post: Emma P.

Assignment: QCC, Daily summary

Reading:

- Bernard Francois et al, "The Lourdes Medical Cures Revisited," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 69.1 (2012); 135-162.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

As you come into Arzua on the main road (Avenida de Lugo) you'll pass a gas station (on the right hand side of the road). Keep walking and 50 metres ahead (on the left hand side of the road) you'll arrive at the Pension Residencia "El Retiro".

6:30 Class discussion

8:00 Dinner

Day 27: Friday 3rd June

Arzua—O Pino (walk 19 km)

Topic: Final Paper Work Day

Blog post: Beatriz W.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Meet in lobby to depart

When you enter the tiny village of A Rúa on the Camino (at a crossroads with a "Km 20.857" Camino marker), you'll see a sign directing you right to the Hotel Restaurante O Pino. Leave the Camino here, turning right in the direction of the sign. In 200 m you will arrive at the large Hotel O Pino.

8:00 Dinner

Day 28: Saturday 4th June

O Pino—Santiago de Compostela (walk 20.1 km)

Topic: Arriving in Santiago

Blog post: Conor M.

Assignment: Daily summary

May 1, 2016

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Meet in lobby to depart
6:30 Class discussion
7:45 Meet in lobby to walk to dinner
8:00 Dinner at Café de Altamira

Day 29: Sunday 5th June

Santiago de Compostela

Topic: Cathedral of Santiago Cathedral and Pilgrim's Mass

Blog post: Kayla M.

Assignment: Sketching (two 15-min sketches)

8:00 Breakfast
11:30 Seated at the Cathedral
12:00 Pilgrim's Mass at Cathedral
3:30 Tour of Santiago's Old Quarter and Cathedral [done at 6:00 and we say farewell to Manuel]
6:30 Class discussion
7:45 Meet in lobby to walk to dinner
8:00 Dinner at Restaurante Don Quijote

Day 30: Monday 6th June

Santiago – Madrid – Boston

Topic: Going Home!

Blog Post: Sebastian H.

Assignment: Final paper and notebook due upon departure from hotel

TBA Coach to airport
9:15 Iberia flight #IB3877 departs