**PHIL 449: Self-Knowledge and Discernment: The Experience of Pilgrimage**

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Spring 2020

**Class meetings:** Rahner House, every other Monday afternoon

Overnight Retreat, Dover Center, March 13-15

Pilgrimage in Spain: May 19-June 6

**Course description:** In this course, we will explore the notion of pilgrimage as a means to understanding relationship of self to God, oneself, and one’s community. We will also look at the theme of discernment, or how to make choices in response to God’s calls to us, and the nature of walking as a cultural and spiritual practice. The emphasis will be on spiritual writings in the Christian tradition, including those of Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. However, the pilgrimage is open to anyone interested in exploring spirituality and self-knowledge, from any or no religious background.

**Grading:**

Class participation and attendance (general): 25 percent

Journals on assigned walks/ out of class exercises: 15 percent

Paper one (4-5 pages): 15 percent

Paper two (4-5 pages): 15 percent

Final paper (10-12 pages) due after return from pilgrimage (July 15): 30 percent

Please note that the journals are not graded on the basis of content but on timely completion of the required/ assigned exercises—such as weekend walks with specific themes for reflection. You are free to write about your experience in any way that you would like.

**Texts (required):**

Rebecca Solnit, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*

Diana Webb, *Medieval European Pilgrimage*

St Ignatius of Loyola, *A Pilgrim’s Testament: the Memoirs of St Ignatius of Loyola*. Trans. Divakar. The Institute of Jesuits Sources, 1995.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Reveries of a Solitary Walker*, Oxford, 2011.

Thich Nhat Han, *How To Walk.*

Emerson and Thoreau, *Nature and Walking.*  
Casey Beaumier, SJ, *A Purposeful Path*.

**Optional text:**

John Brierly, *A Pilgrim’s Guide to the Camino Santiago*.

*If you have any financial challenges purchasing the books, please let me know and I will see what I can do to assist.*

*A list of equipment for the Camino itself will be provided early on in the spring semester.*

**Course Schedule:**

**Meeting One: Pilgrimage, walking, and culture**

**Please read in advance over the winter break:­­**

Diana Webb, *Medieval European Pilgrimage*.

Rebecca Solnit, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking,* chapters 1-2.

**Journal reflection (due by beginning of class):** Describe the place that walking has in your life. Do you walk much or mostly take a car or the MBTA? When do you typically walk? When you walk, what do you do as you walk: listen to music, talk with a friend, put your head down and get to your destination as fast as possible, or observe the world? Do you walk for transportation, for leisure, as recreation (such as hiking)? Have you ever been on a pilgrimage before and if so, what was it like? Close your essay with a desire that you have for going on this pilgrimage: what attracts you to pilgrimage and what do you hope to get out of the class and the trip?

**Meeting Two: Ignatius of Loyola and Pilgrimage**

Read before class: *A Pilgrim’s Testament: the Memoirs of St Ignatius of Loyola*. Trans. Divakar. The Institute of Jesuits Sources, 1995. Mark a passage that interests or surprises you, and be prepared to share it with the class.

In class reading (bring a copy but you do not have to read this in advance): Dennis Hamm, SJ “Rummaging for God” (Canvas PDF)

In class presentation: an overview of major principles of Ignatian spirituality; naming our desires for pilgrimage.

**In class journaling exercise:** The Examen

**Meeting Three: Theology of Pilgrimage**

“Introduction,” in Victor and Edith Turner, *Image and Pilgrimage in Christian culture: Anthropological Perspectives*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1978 (Canvas)

Walton, Heather, “Theological Perspectives on Christian Pilgrimage,” in Avril Maddrell, Veronica della Dora, Alessandro Scafi, and Heather Walton, *Christian Pilgrimage, Landscape and Heritage: Journeying to the Sacred*, New York: Routledge, 2015, 22-40. (Canvas)

Pope John Paul II, “Bull of induction of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 *Incarnationis Mysterium*” (29 November 1998)

Pope John Paul II, Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, “The Pilgrimage in the Great Jubilee” (April 25, 1998). [<http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/documents/rc_pc_migrants_doc_19980425_pilgrimage_en.htm>]

Possible presentation by André Brouillette, SJ on theology of Ignatian pilgrimage.

**Journal Reflection (due by the beginning of class):**Last week, we talked about the life and spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola and the Examen. Take a walk with a classmate and spend the first 20 minutes discussing: What are some ways that your Boston College experience so far connects back to Ignatian ideas and/or the Jesuit mission of BC? You might include anything from classes that you have taken, conversations that you have had with friends, extra-curricular activities, retreats that you have been on, or whatever else seems relevant. Journal about your walk.

**Meeting Four: Walking and Contemplation**

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Reveries of a Solitary Walker*, Oxford, 2011, reveries 1, 2, and 5.

W. Burghardt, SJ, “A Long Loving Look at the Real.” (PDF, Canvas)

Vinita Hampton Wright, “Four Principles of Pilgrimage”, <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/four-principles-of-pilgrimage/>

Thich Nhat Han, *How To Walk*.

Poetry (Canvas): Whitman Whitman, “As I Walk, Solitary, Unattended”; Mary Oliver selections

**Journal Reflection (due by the start of class):** First, do the reading for the week. Then, choose one author’s idea and take a long walk (an hour or more) with that author’s approach in mind for at least part of your walk. Describe your walk in any way you would like.

**Meeting Five: Pilgrimage, Tourism, and Monasticism**

William T. Cavanaugh, "Migrant, Tourist, Pilgrim, Monk: Mobility and Identity in a Global Age." *Theological Studies* 69 (2008): 340-56.

Richard Niebuhr, “Pilgrims and Pioneers” (PDF)

James Keenan, SJ “Jesuit Hospitality” (PDF, Canvas)

**Midterm paper due**. Prompt TBA.

**Meeting Six: Nature and Walking**

Thoreau, “Walking”

Kip Redick, “Spiritual Rambling as Embodied Ritual Performance and the Transformation of Person and Place” (PDF)

Excerpt from Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (PDF on Canvas)

Optional: Solnit, chapters 6 and/or 8.

**Journal Reflection (due by the start of class):** Take a long walk (at least one hour) in nature, with at least other student in the class *with whom you have not yet already walked for a previous exercise*. One possible place to go is to take the MBTA to the Boston Public Garden, and then follow the map of the Emerald Necklace <https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/park-overview/emerald-necklace-map/> as far as you like. Alternatively, start the Emerald Necklace on the other side at the Arnold Arboretum, and make you way in the direction of downtown.

Or, go closer by to the Hammond Woods reserve, or hike around Walden Pond in Concord.

**Journal** about a particular moment on your walk when you encountered something beautiful, hopeful, or life giving. If you would like to add a drawing or other artistic element to your journal, feel free, but there is no pressure to do so.

**Meeting Seven: Self, God, Friendship, and Community in Pilgrimage**

Casey Beaumier, SJ, *A Purposeful Path*, Loyola Press.

Solnit, *Wanderlust*, chapter 10.

Excerpt from Dorothy Day, *On Pilgrimage*.

**Journal reflection (due by beginning of class):** We will take a long walk together as a class starting at the entrance of Margot’s on date XYZ and going into the city of Boston and then returning by MBTA. Please bring a backpack, a full water bottle, and wear a good pair of shoes. If you have a Charlie Card, please bring it, or bring enough funds to purchase a train ride back from Boston.

**Part Two: (May 19 - June 6, 2020)**

*In Spain:* We will begin in Leon, but with an option to meet in Madrid first and travel together to Leon as a group if you wish. Our first day in Leon will include a classroom preparation piece in the evening, and our walking will begin the following day.

**Part Three:**

**Final paper is due July 15, 2020**, via email or Canvas upload, 10-12 pages.

We will also have a **reunion meal** in the fall after we have all returned to campus.