

## Course Syllabus

### MI 546 Global Mission Study Tour: Christian Pilgrimage in Northern Spain

May 8 - 23, 2019



**INSTRUCTOR:** Allan Effa, Ph.D. Phone 431-5244 Email [allan.ffa@taylor-edu.ca](mailto:allan.ffa@taylor-edu.ca)

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

This year's trip will have two primary intentions: spiritual formation and historical/cultural appreciation. We will seek to do this by exploring the theology and spiritual practice of *pilgrimage* as we walk an ancient pathway and meet other pilgrims from around the world. We will be walking the 310 km. from León to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain in fifteen days. Students will be responsible to make their own way to León, arriving no later than Tuesday, May 7. We will follow the itinerary set out in John Brierley's *A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago* with daily walks. We will stay in simple "refugios" or pilgrim hostels along the way and each student will be responsible for costs of lodging and meals between León and Santiago de Compostela. (Hostel charges range from €5 and €10 per night and food costs are between €25 - €30 per day). Transportation and return costs from Santiago de Compostela will also be the responsibility of the student. Daily walking distances will range from 18 – 28 km so participants will need to train and be in good shape prior to the trip. Appropriate footwear, rainwear and backpacks are essential. The course will be limited to 10 participants (credit and audit), with a preference for credit students. Credit students will be given priority until November 2. Alumni who wish to audit the course will be given second priority until November 30. After November 30 registration will open to any auditors who wish to join, provided there is space. Registrations will close on January 10 or when the maximum number of registrants has been reached.

"The geographical pilgrimage is the symbolic acting out of an inner journey."  
– Thomas Merton

**COURSE WEIGHT:** 3 Credits

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

Knowledge – Students will:

- Be able to articulate a Christian theology of Pilgrimage
- Deepen an understanding of Christian history and the culture of northern Spain

Character – Students will:

- Engage in significant personal reflection and grow in self-understanding
- Experience community and communion with fellow pilgrims

Ability – Students will:

- Improve physical fitness and strength
- Explore faith-related conversations with other pilgrims on The Way

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Bartholomew, Craig and Fred Hughes (eds). *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage*. Ashgate, 2004.

Boers, Arthur Paul. *The Way is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago*. IVP, 2007.

Brierley, John. *A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago: A Practical and Mystical Manual for the Modern Pilgrim*. Findhorn Press, 2013.

Rupp, Joyce. *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino*. Orbis, 2005.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT**

Foster, Charles, *The Sacred Journey*. Thomas Nelson, 2010.

**REQUIRED FILM VIEWING**

*The Way*, 2010, directed by Emilio Estevez. Or

*Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*, 2013, directed by Lydia Smith

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:**1. Attendance and Participation

This includes pre-trip team meetings (if any) as well as participation in the pilgrimage walk, contributions to the building of community among pilgrims, and participation in evening debriefing meetings along the way.

2. Reading and Book Reviews

Students will read and submit a book review for the Bartholomew/Hughes, Boers and Rupp texts. The texts by Boers and Rupp *must* be read prior to departure and a review turned in or emailed to the instructor no later than **May 7, 2019**. This pre-reading is essential because it will not only help create an appropriate mindset for the journey but offer practical tips on how to pack and prepare.

The Bartholomew/Hughes text should be reviewed by **June 23, 2019** (see Book Review Templates on pages 4-5 of this syllabus).

The Brierley text is a reference travel guide to be used during the trip itself. No review of the book is required. If you have a companion you plan to always walk with, it is not essential for each person to have a copy of this travel guide.

3. Daily Spiritual Journal

A minimum of ten journal entries should focus particularly on spiritual reflections on how you are experiencing God, what you are learning about yourself and others, as well as significant encounters and conversations along the way. This is not a tourist journal recording scenery oddities or what you ate or drank each day. The entries should be between 250-400 words and may be handwritten. The journal will be due on June 23, 2019.

4. Theological Articulation Paper

Students will write a 12 – 15 page paper setting forth their personal theology of pilgrimage, drawing primarily from biblical material in dialogue with the Bartholomew/Hughes, Boers and Rupp texts. Other sources may also be consulted as needed. Evidence of research must be present in the paper, though, ultimately, this is a personal creative project grounded in biblical reflection and the student's experience of

the pilgrimage itself. This paper should follow the Taylor Guide for Research and Writing and is due June 23, 2019.

**NOTE TO AUDITORS**

In order to mindfully and spiritually participate in this pilgrimage course, it is essential to complete the readings of the Rupp and Boers books prior to beginning the walk. You will be expected to participate in debriefing sessions along the way, to cooperate with your team leader and participate in group activities.

**DISTRIBUTION OF CREDITS:**

Assignment	Date Due	Weight
<b>Attendance and Participation</b>		<b>10%</b>
<b>Boers and Rupp Reviews</b>	<b>May 7</b>	<b>30% (15 each)</b>
<b>Bartholomew and Hughes Review</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Spiritual Journal</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Pilgrimage Theology Paper</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Book Review Template for Arthur Paul Boers and Joyce Rupp's Books (Due May 7, 2019)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Box \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book Read \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of Total Pages Read \_\_\_\_\_  
**100**

1. Try to frame the author's purpose in one descriptive paragraph:

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2. If you had to choose three favourite chapters in this book, which would they be, and why? Reflect on what you learned and how you were challenged by the reading of these chapters (3 paragraphs)

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3. Critical Assessment (1 – 1½ pages) – What did you like about the book, the writing style, the use of language, the organization of the material and the content communicated. What did you dislike or have difficulty with and why?

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4. Summarize in one paragraph what you consider to be the most life-impacting insight or concept you have distilled from the reading of this book.

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**Book Review Template for *Explorations in a Christian Theology of Pilgrimage* (Due June 23, 2019)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Box \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of Total Pages Read \_\_\_\_\_  
**100**

1. Write a summary paragraph for each of the twelve chapters (essays) in this book. A typical paragraph should consist of 300 – 500 words. Focus only on the contents, without critically interacting or looking for application points.
2. In a 2 - 4 page summary, pull together what you think are the primary ideas that will contribute toward your articulation of your personal theology of pilgrimage. As you reflect on your pilgrimage experience, which of these ideas did you find to be particularly helpful toward shaping meaningful reflection on your walk of the Camino?