

University Scholars 4V21: Medieval Pilgrimage

Adam McCune

E-mail: adam_mccune@baylor.edu

Phone: 803.443.5209

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course traces the development of the ideas of physical and spiritual pilgrimage in major medieval European works. It also draws connections to the foundations of those works in the Hebrew and Christian Bible, and to succeeding Renaissance and modern authors who adapt medieval conceptions of pilgrimage.

Required Texts

Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford University Press, 2009).

ISBN: 978-0199537822

Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*, trans. Barry Windeatt (Penguin, 2000).

ISBN: 978-0140432510

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Selected Canterbury Tales: A New Verse Translation*, trans. Sheila Fisher (Norton, 2012).

ISBN: 978-0393341782

Dante Alighieri, *The Portable Dante*, trans. Mark Musa (Penguin, 2003).

ISBN: 978-0142437544

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Dover, 2003).

ISBN: 978-0486426754

C. S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress* (Eerdmans, 1992).

ISBN: 978-0802806413

Axel Munthe, *Story of San Michele*

(any print edition, or digital edition on Archive.org)

(Other, shorter readings will be provided digitally on Canvas.)

Evaluation:

Essays 40% (20% + 20%)

Final Exam 20%

Participation 40%

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100

B+ = 87-89

C+ = 77-79

D + = 67-69

F = 0-59

A- = 90-92

B = 83-86

C = 73-76

D = 60-66

B- = 80-82

C- = 70-72

Essays

You will submit two **5-6 page essays** responding to prompts (below), using literary analysis to identify a specific arguable point one or more of the works studied makes about the themes of the course.

Cite line numbers or pages throughout. If you plan to use any secondary sources (sources besides the literary works assigned in the course), or editions other than those recommended, consult your instructor in advance and cite these sources in MLA format in a “Works Cited” page.

Essay One Prompt

Address *both* of the following:

- Describe (with quotations/examples) one author’s or one character’s response to, or representation of, pilgrimage to a place on the earth.
- What does this author’s/character’s view of physical pilgrimage imply about his/her view of the pilgrimage of life? (Or, if his/her view of the pilgrimage of life is made explicit, what is the connection between the two?) Make the connection using quotations/examples from this text and/or other texts we have read which connect physical pilgrimage to the pilgrimage of life (pilgrimage to heaven).

Essay Two Prompt

Select one author’s representation of life as a journey with a destination, or of the Christian as a foreigner in this world. Use quotations/examples to show what this representation (e.g., aspects of life represented as physical spaces or as people, metaphors of wandering, direction, and rest, etc.) asserts or reveals about life.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of an essay prompt drawing both on texts from Part One (before Essay One) and from Part Two (after Essay One).

Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in:

- all class discussions (demonstrating thoughtful reading of assigned texts), and
- all scheduled activities (field trips and Caritas shelter service).