

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology/ Department of Jewish History. BGU**

**Course: In The Footsteps of Pilgrims: Anthropology and History**

**Level and status: one semester, 2 credit points B.A. third year elective seminar**

**Lecturers: Dr. Jackie Feldman (Sociology-Anthropology), Dr. Effie Shoham (Jewish History).**

**Taught: 2009/10 (expanded full year-course taught in 2008/9)**

**Course description:**

It is no accident that many religious traditions have depicted the spiritual life as a pilgrimage. While pilgrimages have set goals, routes, maps, guides, ecclesiastical authorities and prescribed practices, they also are departures – from the comforts of home, the grind of routine, and the vise of social structure. The attraction of the road, the constant movement, the physical exertions involved, and the new people encountered may forge new emotional and spiritual bonds among people who may never meet otherwise. For many participants, the "still, small voice" may become audible only at a distance from the dense traffic of their daily life world. And that voice may hold the promise of individual life change and social transformation. Through the combination of comparative anthropology, student research, study of historical sources, and a field trip, we seek to expose a small portion of the cultural and religious wealth of pilgrimages in Jewish, Christian and Islamic tradition as witnessed today and as recorded through time. The interdisciplinary approach will demonstrate the uniqueness of anthropology and history and the added value from the dialogue between the two disciplines. The course will include readings of Jewish, Christian and Muslim primary sources as well as an excursion to Jerusalem focusing on pilgrimage in the three religions.

**Course requirements:**

Required attendance and participation, including occasional reading assignments and participation in the excursion and submission of a 2-3 page analytic report. (20%). Mid-term assignment – outline and initial bibliography of term paper (20%). Students will present research seminars in pairs, preferably involving one student from each discipline. Presentation of a (20 page) seminar paper based on anthropological or historical research by May 31 (60%).

**Required Readings (not including primary sources) in order of their assignment:**

Otto, Rudolf, *The Holy*, pp. 13-36, Tel Aviv: Carmel, 1999 (Hebrew).

Eliade, Mircea, "Sacred Space and the Sanctification of the World" in *Pilgrimages: Jewish, Christian, Muslim*, Open University, Raanana, 2005, pp. 193—211 (Hebrew).

Jonathan Z. Smith, *To Take Place: Toward Theory in Ritual*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987, pp. 74-95.

- Turner, Edith. 1985. "Pilgrimage" in Mircea Eliade (ed), *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Vol. 11, pp. 328-330 + pp. 331-354.
- Turner, Victor. "Pilgrimages as Social Processes", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimages*, pp. 19—64 (Hebrew).
- C. Bawa Yamba, *Permanent Pilgrims: the Role of Pilgrimage in the Lives of West African Muslims in Sudan*, London 1995, pp. 6-16; 182-193.
- Bernard Cohn, "History and anthropology: the state of play", *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22 (1987):198—221.
- Feldman, Jackie, "The Experience of Communitas and the Strengthening of Authority: Pilgrimage to Second Temple Jerusalem", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. 88---109 (Hebrew).
- Hunt, A.D., "Tourism and Voyages of Piety in the Roman Empire" in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. 122—137 (Hebrew).
- Markus, Robert A. "How Do Places Become Holy? The origins of the concept of Sacred Places in Christianity", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp.243—255 (Hebrew).
- MacCormack, Sabine. "Holy Places: The Organization of Sacred topography in Late Antiquity", Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. 212—242 (Hebrew).
- Frey, Nancy Louise. *Pilgrim Stories: On and Off the Road to Santiago*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, Chapter 8, pp. 178-214.
- Almog, Oz. *The Tzabar – A Portrait*. Sifriat Poalim, Tel Aviv, pp. 268—288 (Hebrew).
- Kosansky O, "Tourism, charity, and profit: The movement of money in Moroccan Jewish pilgrimage", *Cultural Anthropology* Vol 17(3), 2002, pp. 359-400.
- Katriel, Tamar. "Touring the Land: Trips and Hiking as Secular Pilgrimages in Israeli Culture", *Jewish Ethnology and Folklore Review*, Vol. 17 (1-2), 1995, pp. 6-13.
- Galbraith, Maryssa. "On the Road to Czenstochowa: Rhetoric and Experience on a Polish Pilgrimage", *Anthropological Quarterly*, 2000, Vol. 73 (2), pp. 61-73.

Presentation and discussion of student papers.

### **Additional Readings:**

- Sumption, Jonathan. "The Penitential Pilgrimage", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. E7-E22.
- Constable, G. "Opposition to Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. E23—E44.
- "Hadjj"; "Ziyarah" in [Encyclopedia of Islam](#)
- Meri, Joseph. "The Etiquette of Devotion in the Islamic Cult of Saints", in Limor and Reiner, eds., *Pilgrimage*, pp. E45—E68.
- Cohen, Erik. "Pilgrimage and Tourism: Convergence and Divergence" in E. Alan Morinis, *Sacred Journeys: The Anthropology of Pilgrimage*, Greenwood, Westport, Connecticut, 1991, pp. 47-61.
- Shapiro, Faydra. "To the Apple of God's Eye: Christian Zionist Travel to Israel", [Journal of Contemporary Religion](#), 23 (3), (October 2008), pp. 307-320.
- Cohen-Hattab, Kobi. "From Terra Sancta to Tourism: Geographical-Historical Research of Tourism and its Place in the Study of Eretz Israel", *Kathedra* 91 (1999), pp, 113—136.

- MacPherson, James M. , *Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg*, Crown, 2003.
- Linenthal, Edward Tabor, *Sacred Ground: Americans and their Battlefields*, Scholarly Book Services, 2002.
- Sallnow, Michael J. "Pilgrimage and Cultural Fracture in the Andes", in *Contesting the Sacred: The Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage*, Eade, John and Michael J. Sallnow, eds. London and New York: Routledge, 1991, 137-153.
- Crain, Mary, "Pilgrims, 'Yuppies', and Media Men: The Transformation of an Andalusian Pilgrimage". In: *Revitalizing European Rituals*, Jeremy Boissevain, ed., Routledge: London, 1992, pp. 95-112.
- Weingrod Alex., *The Saint of Beersheba*, Albany: SUNY Press, 1990, p. 23- 68.
- Bilu, Yoram and Henry Abramovitch, "In Search of the Saddiq: Visitation Dreams Among Moroccan Jews in Israel", *Psychiatry* 1985, pp. 83-92.