GEOG 351
Spiritual Landscapes
Fall 2019

Instructor Contact

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Todd
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Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:30 pm or by appointment
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Course Description

GEOG 351 Spiritual Landscapes. (3 credits) (=ANTH 351) In this course, students examine the intersections of geography and anthropology with spiritual beliefs and experiences associated with various landscapes and geologic formations around the world. We discuss the concept of topophilia and the human-environmental connection through the geographies of religion and belief systems. Class case studies include mythology, historical accounts, cultural resource management reports, archeology research, and impacts from tourism. F, S, Su.

Course Objectives:

- Understand geographical and anthropological perspectives regarding various cultural groups' perceptions and beliefs regarding sacred or spiritual lands.
- Explore the academic literature and major research questions within the framework of sacred sites, landscapes connected to belief systems and myths, and the concept of topophilia.
- Use library, web, and other scholarly sources for research.
- Practice critical and communication skills through writing exercises related to topics and research paper.

Student Learning Outcome Goals:

- Explain the application of geographical and anthropological themes and lenses in understanding various cultural belief systems connections to geologic features and landscapes around the world.
- Explain commonalities and differences between different cultural groups world beliefs regarding sacred sites, landscapes connected to cultural belief systems; and topophlia.
- Demonstrate the ability to use library, web, and other scholarly sources for research related to chosen research topic.
- Demonstrate effective critical and communication skills through writing exercises related to topics and research paper.

Required Texts

This course follows a student-focused OER (Open Educational Resources) model, meaning both software and course materials adopted will be at little or no-cost to students in this course. The goal of OER adoption within CCU courses is to reduce total-cost-to-graduation for students while maintaining high quality learning materials for our students. I've carefully evaluated and selected tools and materials that are best-suited for our course, and I hope that you each enjoy learning new tools, using materials that are available at no cost to you, and having the freedoms provided by gaining access to materials that are constantly updated within our discipline. Links to scholarly sources, websites, and videos will be provided in the weekly schedule of activities and within the weekly module folder on Moodle.

Course Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer with Internet connection (high speed cable connection desirable), for use in online sessions and in between class meetings.
- Access to Moodle Learning Management System (LMS).
- Skills
    - Ability to send email with file attachments
    - Ability to upload files to Moodle and use Turn It In (TII)
    - Ability to view browser based multimedia
    - Ability to use Google Earth

Communication Policy:

For specific questions related to your course work, email me at atodd2@coastal.edu, I will respond within 24 hours in most instances during the week. On the weekends, I will try to respond within 24-48 hours as scheduling/travel permits.

Attendance Policy

Each student is expected to attend class regularly. Online attendance will be taken through participation in the discussions and submissions of journals and quizzes by the due dates. For reporting purposes, an absence in a distance learning course is operationally defined as a missed online submission deadline—such as a quiz, assignment, or discussion post. For this course you will have a weekly assignment designated as attendance every week. The University policy stipulates that "an instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including assigning the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings." Attendance will be taken, and absences in excess of 25% of our class meetings will result in a failing grade, no matter what your actual performance in the course happens to be. The Catalog also states that "Absences will be excused for documented cases of:
    a) Incapacitating illness,
    b) Official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity),
    c) Death of a close relative, and
    d) Religious holidays."

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no makeup assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason as mentioned above and instructor approval. There is no extra credit within the course unless an approved university guest lecture or event is approved by the instructor.

Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Points
A	90 – 100 points
B+	87 – 89.9 points
B	80 – 86.9 points
C+	77 – 79.9 points
C	70 – 76.9 points
D+	67 – 69.9 points
D	60 – 66.9 points
F	59.9 and below

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Discussion Forums	650	32.5%
Journal Article Write-ups and discussions	700	35%
Individual Research Paper (including paper topic approval)	320	16%
Group Presentation (including group evaluations)	330	16.5%
Total Possible to Earn	**2000**	**100%**

All written assignments must be typed in double-spaced format with a standard 12 point font size, and written using college-level organization and grammar. Remember to proofread your assignments. Written assignments will be submitted via Moodle in a current version of MS Word or Adobe PDF format. Assignments may be submitted through Turn It In (TII), a plagiarism checker.

Statement of Community Standards

Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Any class members who the instructor deems disruptive to the learning environment may be asked to leave class for the day.

Disability Statement

Office of Accessibility and Disability Services b. Coastal Carolina University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services. This office is located in Indigo House and the phone number is 843-349-2341. Please make an appointment with a staff member in Accessibility and Disability Services so that such accommodations can be considered. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper forms and meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. It is recommended that this must be completed within the first two weeks of class. Website: http://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices ii. Phone number: 843.349.2341

A syllabus is a general guide to the course. It is not a contract or agreement. The instructor reserves the right to unilaterally change anything contained in the syllabus, including but not limited to, assignments, tests, or grading.