

GEOG 352  
Sacred Spaces, Sacred Paths  
Spring 2022

### Instructor Contact

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Todd  
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### Course Description

GEOG 352 Sacred Spaces, Sacred Paths. (3 credits) In this course, students examine geographic intersections of place, space, and sacredness within various belief systems, architectural structures around the world, and city layouts. This course explores the aspects of space through analysis at various scales of sacred geographical boundaries, specific points (sacred sites), and lines (pilgrimages) through a geographic lens. Students examine intersections of space and the physical terrain, with built structures serving a sacred purpose for a society. Class case studies may focus on the diffusion of sacred practices and belief systems; how sacred space is demarcated through rituals and/or ceremonies; ideas of sacred directions and orientation in space; and cosmological layouts of towns. F, S, Su

### Course Objectives:

- Examine the geographic intersections of place, space, and sacredness through studying various belief systems around the world.
- Identify common features of cosmological city layouts.
- Explore concepts of sacred geographical boundaries and examples in various regions.
- Identify and define sacred sites with architectural structures and their sacred purpose.
- Explore pilgrimages and their associated terrains, temples, and sacred sites.
- Examine how sacred space is demarcated through rituals and/or ceremonies.
- Describe the importance of geographic orientation in space through examples of how sacred directions are incorporated into cosmological city layouts, architectural structures, and sacred space.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain from a geographical perspective how different types of space (*i.e.*, areas, points, and lines) are incorporated into a society's world view of sacredness and the connections to place.
- Explain from a geographical perspective how sacred directions are incorporated into concepts of sacred space.

- Demonstrate the ability to use library, web, and other scholarly sources for research related to sacred geographical areas, sites, and pilgrimages.

## Required Text

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 classroom 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](mailto: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. 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 |

| Letter Grade | Points           |
|--------------|------------------|
| C            | 70 – 76.9 points |
| D+           | 67 – 69.9 points |
| D            | 60 – 66.9 points |
| F            | 59.9 and below   |

| Assignment   | Points      | Percentage  |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Participation and Attendance                                     | 100         | 10%         |
| Activities/Reading Discussion Forums                             | 600         | 60%         |
| Individual Final Research Paper (including paper topic approval) | 300         | 30%         |
| <b>Total Possible to Earn</b>                                    | <b>1000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

All written assignments must be typed in double-spaced format with 12 point font size, and written using college-level grammar and organization. Written assignments will be submitted via Moodle in a current version of MS Word or Adobe PDF format. All written assignments will be submitted through Turn It In (TII), a plagiarism checker. A general rubric will be available for the journal article submissions (the topic/focus will change for each). A rubric will also be available for the research paper.

### Participation and Attendance

You will earn points for attending class meetings and actively participating (listening and responding).

### Activities/Reading Discussion Forums

In class or outside of class activities may include watching documentaries and answering questions; reading required articles or book chapters and answering short essay questions; or discussing the readings in forums or in class.

## Individual Final Research Paper

During the semester you will be provided guidelines and a rubric for the final research paper. You will select either a sacred site, a pilgrimage route, or a cosmological laid out city to research which must be approved by the instructor. The paper will be 6-8 pages in length. Your research must include scholarly journals and books for the region and may include current news sources, and travel blogs when applicable.

## 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.*

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Week 1 and 2        | Introductions and key Geographical Concepts/Terminology used during semester                |
| Week 3 and 4        | Belief Systems, Sacred Orientations/Directions  |
| Week 5, 6, and 7    | Sacred Geographical Areas and Boundaries  |
| Week 8, 9, and 10   | Sacred Sites (points) and Built Structures (Temples)  |
| Week 11, 12, and 13 | Sacred Lines and Pilgrimages  |
| Week 14, 15, and 16 | Case Studies: Cosmological Layouts of Towns and Ritual/Ceremonies to Demarcate Sacred Space |