

RELG 279 / RELG 276 / ASST 286

# Carleton in Kyoto 2019: Pilgrimage and Sacred Space

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## COURSE INFO

- Term: Spring 2019
- Course #: RELG 279.07 Pilgrimage and Sacred Site (6 credits); RELG 276.07 Field Studies (3 credits); ASST 286 Topics in Japanese Religion and Culture (3 credits).
- Format: mixture of lecture and discussion with a strong emphasis on the latter. Group fieldwork and field trips are built into the courses.
- RELG 279 usually meets on Monday and Wednesday morning (with a couple of exceptions; see the course schedule).
- RELG 276 and ASST 286 do not meet regularly.

## INSTRUCTOR INFO

- Name: Asuka Sango
- Email: [asango@carleton.edu](mailto:asango@carleton.edu)
- Office: Fusokan 210
- Office Hours:
  - Please sign up for an office hour slot using the link at the top of our Moodle page. It's a 20-min slot, but if you need more than 20 minutes, please sign up for more slots. If nobody signs up, I may leave the office early. If none of these slots works for you, please email me to make an appointment.
  - I am also available for lunch. It's on me. So take advantage!

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Place-based, experiential learning of Japanese religions focusing on select religious sites in Kyoto, as well as field trips to Tokyo, Hiroshima and Kumano pilgrimage.
- Mindful self-reflection built into the courses as opportunities to critically reflect on one's process of learning and growth - both intellectual and personal - leading to a transformative experience possible only in an off campus environment.
- Building a community of learners who accomplish these goals together while simultaneously working on individual research projects making unique contributions to the community.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"Pilgrimage" is arguably the oldest form of tourism in the world. Some of us, modern travelers, define "pilgrimage" as a strictly religious act, but it was, and is, in fact a complex cultural phenomenon, as will be demonstrated throughout this trip. So "pilgrimage" needs to be approached from multiple perspectives - religious, cultural, historical, political, and social.

Throughout the program, we will visit many sacred sites: Kumano (one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in Japan), Yasukuni Shrine (the modern invention), the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum (the postwar developments) as well as many other less known sites in Kyoto. We will explore these sites as lived and experienced by Japanese people while examining the history behind these sites, which invoke the weight of tradition while reinterpreting its meanings for today.

At the same time, we will reflect on our own visit to these sites as a form of “pilgrimage,” or a passage from Northfield, Minnesota to Kyoto, Japan. Such a passage is never easy, but if we are willing to challenge our own assumptions and our own comfort zone, we will be able to experience a meaningful encounter with differences, which, I believe, is the main goal of liberal arts education.

### **COURSE CONTENT NOTE**

#### *“Respecting Individual Differences,” and Not “Trigger Warning”*

I acknowledge and respect the diversity in age, class, culture, abilities, disabilities, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other individual differences. No two students enter a classroom with identical abilities, experiences, needs, or learning style. Therefore, although I have designed this course to enhance students’ productive educational experiences—by broadening their knowledge, introducing different values and challenging their cultural assumptions, I acknowledge that individual students may respond to the course content differently, and some may even react to some of the challenging material in a way detrimental to their learning. Unfortunately there is no way for me to know which issues will be particularly challenging for which students, and therefore, I am incapable of creating a comprehensive list of potentially difficult issues covered in this course, and without this kind of list, I won’t be able to give the so-called “trigger warning.” I also fear that the ‘list’ approach may create an unintended misunderstanding that certain differences deserve more consideration than the others.

That said, I do want to try my best to respect individual differences. I believe a balance must be found between being sensitive to students’ individual needs, on the one hand, and challenging them and encouraging them to grow beyond their own expectations, on the other. Therefore, I ask you to be aware that some of the material may be disturbing to some. If you have a particular concern you want me to be aware of, please let me know. If you ever feel the need to step outside during class discussion, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may always do so without academic penalty. But please keep me posted either via email or in person. Also, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or go over the missed material with me during my office hours. If there are any other issues or concern that you want me to be aware of, please do not hesitate to email me.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

- Your participation is particularly crucial because this is an OCS program. Barring extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances, students are expected to complete the assignments before class, attend all classes and field trips, and participate in every aspect of this OCS program actively and consistently.
- Your participation will not receive a separate letter grade. But I may reward excellent participation by raising your overall course grade by one grade at the end of the term (e.g., B

becomes B+). Poor participation may cause your overall grade to be marked down by one grade (e.g., B becomes B-).

- Included in this calculation is your class attendance. If your attendance is lower than 90%, your letter grade may be marked down by one grade. If lower than 80%, it may be marked down by two grades; if lower than 70%, it may be marked down by three grades. If lower than 60%, you may not pass.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- You must complete all of these assignments to pass these courses.
- We will be using the Moodle gradebook. Please note that you will not see the total % of 50 for the 3-credit courses because the gradebook has to calculate the total % as 100.

|                       |  |    |
|-----------------------|--|----|
| RELG 279<br>(100 pts) | Regular Post x 3 (200-300 words)   | 15 |
|                       | Reflection Post x 5 (200-300 words)  | 20 |
|                       | Inside Kyoto Post x 5 (a few sentences)  | 15 |
|                       | Group Fieldwork Report (500-600 words)   | 15 |
|                       | Presentation of Class Project (5-6 minutes)  | 20 |
|                       | Final Reflection Essay (500-750 words)   | 15 |
| RELG 276<br>(50 pts)  | Topic Choice   | 5  |
|                       | Midterm Report for Class Project (1-2 pages)   | 8  |
|                       | Progress Meeting with the Instructor x 2   | 12 |
|                       | Final Project Report (750-1000 words)  | 25 |
| ASST 286<br>(50 pts)  | You grade is based on your participation including class discussion, Moodle post forum and journal keeping. You will receive a credit for completing these assignments on time. There is no other required assignment for this course. | 50 |

For more information, see the following guidelines (all found on Moodle):

- Guidelines for Class Project
- Guidelines for Group Fieldwork
- Guidelines for Posting
- Guidelines for Written Work

## ONLINE PLATFORMS

- Moodle (limited to the program participants)

- Updating schedule
- Submitting assignments
- WordPress (shared with your friends and family)
  - The WP site will be password protected, but it can be shared with your friends and family. See Guidelines for Posting for the password.
  - We are using WP as our virtual “sacred” space. It can stay for a long time - even after the program ends - for us to visit and reflect and remember our trip. It will also be shared with those interested in participating in the program in the future.
  - Program Assistant will be regularly updating the mainpage blog to keep us and our friends and family posted. She may incorporate your reflection and regular posts anonymously.
- Google map (shared with your friends and family)
  - Posting key sites for our program
  - Posting locations / links for your Inside Kyoto posts.

## GRADING SCALE

|    |        |              |    |       |           |
|----|--------|--------------|----|-------|-----------|
| A  | 93-100 | Exceptional  | C  | 73-76 | Poor      |
| A- | 90-92  | Excellent    | C- | 70-72 |           |
| B+ | 87-89  | Very Good    | D+ | 67-69 | Very Poor |
| B  | 83-86  | Good         | D  | 63-66 |           |
| B- | 80-82  | Satisfactory | D- | 60-62 |           |
| C+ | 77-79  | Marginal     | F  | 0-59  | Failure   |

## COURSE READINGS

- Unless otherwise announced, all the readings will be available on Moodle. There is no textbook to be purchased.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

----- Week 0 -----

THU 3/28: Students arrive in Kyoto

FRI 3/29: Program Director's Orientation and Doshisha's Orientation (ASST 286)

----- Week 1 -----

**SUN 3/31, 11pm: Reflection Post 1 Due**

- Everybody should submit Reflection Post 1 (see Guidelines for Posting). We will discuss your reflection post in class.

**MON 4/1**

- Read Syllabus, Classroom Speech Policy, Guidelines for Posting, and Guidelines for Written Work, and bring any questions to class.
- In addition, there are two class readings for Monday. Please read them carefully and come with specific questions to discuss.
  - Badone and Roseman, "Approaches to the Anthropology of Pilgrimage and Tourism," in *Intersecting Journeys*, 1-11 (Stop before "Discussion of Contributions"; the rest is optional, but may be helpful for your individual research project).
  - Graburn, "The Kyoto Tax Strike: Buddhism, Shinto, and Tourism in Japan," in *Intersecting Journeys*, 125-137.

**TUE 4/2, 11pm: Group A, Regular Post 1 Due**

- Those in Group A should post Regular Post 1 (see Guidelines for Posting). Your post should cover one or more of the class materials assigned for Wednesday (not the materials for Group Fieldwork).

**WED 4/3**

- Read Guidelines for Class Project and Guidelines for Group Fieldwork carefully, and bring any questions to class. In class I will introduce you to Class Project and Group Fieldwork 1. Then you will work with your group to plan the fieldwork.
- In addition, there are three class readings for Wednesday. Please read them carefully and come with specific questions to discuss:
  - [Reader and Tanabe](#), *Practically Religious*, Introduction, 1-32 (Stop before "Overview of the Book").
  - [Nelson](#), *Enduring Identities*, the first part of Chapter 2, 22-34 (Stop before "Markers and Measurements").
  - Ellwood, *Introducing Japanese Religion*, Map, Appendix I and II, 236-240.

----- Week 2 -----

**SUN 4/7, 11pm: Group Fieldwork Report Due**

- If you were the group leader for Group Fieldwork 1, please upload Group Fieldwork Report to Moodle (see Guidelines for Group Fieldwork).

**MON 4/8**

- In addition to reviewing last Wednesday's readings, read the following readings, and complete Group Fieldwork 1 (see Guidelines for Group Fieldwork). In class we will discuss the readings, group fieldwork reports, and objects you brought back from your site.
  - [Nelson](#), *Enduring Identities*, the rest of Chapter 2, 34-53.

- [Nelson](#), *Enduring Identities*, Appendix I, 249-255.
- *Shinto Shrines*, edited by Cali et al., Introduction (excerpt, about 22 pages; *we are only reading the excerpt of Introduction, but [the rest of the book](#) is available electronically and would be helpful for your individual research project*).
- One of the purposes of Group Fieldwork 1 is to give you an idea of how you should design and conduct your individual research project. Please start brainstorming individual research project ideas, and bring some ideas to class. We will then brainstorm together. Your Topic Choice is due on Wednesday.

#### **MON 4/8, 5pm: Living in Japan Post 1 Due**

- Everybody should post Living in Japan Post 1 (see Guidelines for Posting).

#### **TUE 4/9, 10-11:45am: “Living in Japan” Conversation 1 (ASST 286)**

- There will be six student leaders (TBA) who will lead small group discussion.
- The leaders are responsible for reading Living in Japan Post 1 of your two group mates before class, and leading small group discussion (about 20 minutes) in class.
- You do not need to prepare any handout, but please bring two or three questions to discuss with your group. Your responsibilities are to (1) summarize and share the posts of your group mates; (2) discuss the common threads or differences in your perspective and experiences; (3) while thoughtfully and respectfully listening to everybody and taking notes of the conversation; and (3) report the results of your conversation to the entire class.

#### **TUE 4/9, 11pm: Group B, Regular Post 1 Due**

- Those in Group B should post Regular Post 1 (see Guidelines for Posting). Your post should cover Reader and Tanabe reading assigned for Wednesday.

#### **WED 4/10**

- [Reader and Tanabe](#), *Practically Religious*, Chapter 1, 37-60 (Stop before “Practical Benefits, Ritual Institutions and Ritual Processes”); and Chapter 6 (excerpt; 206-221, 229-233).
- Heine, “From Shinbutsu Shūgō to Shinbutsu Bunri and Back,” in *Sacred High City, Sacred Low City*, 101-105 (skip the rest; we will read the rest toward the end of the term).
- Review the section, “Kiyomizudera and Jishu Jinja in Kyoto,” in Guidelines for Group Fieldwork. In class, I will introduce this fieldwork and you will work with your group and make plans.

#### **WED 4/10, 11pm: Topic Choice Due**

- Everybody should submit Topic Choice. See Guidelines for Class Project.
- Also, sign up for Progress Meeting 1, which will take place in Week 3, via Asuka’s Office Hours.

#### **THU 4/11: Field Trip to the Shunkōin Temple**

- Rev. Kawanami’s lecture and meditation session (11:15am-12:45pm)

----- Week 3 -----

**SUN 4/14, 11pm: Group Fieldwork Report Due**

- If you were the group leader for Group Fieldwork 2, please upload Group Fieldwork Report to Moodle.

**MON 4/15**

- In addition to reviewing last Wednesday's readings, read the following readings, and complete Group Fieldwork 2 (see Guidelines for Group Fieldwork). In class we will discuss the readings and group fieldwork reports.
  - [Kiyomizudera](#) in the National Diet Library database, "The Meiji and Taisho Eras in Photographs."
  - Study and analyze [Kiyomizudera Official Site](#) and [Jishu Jinja Official Site](#) in terms of how they promote themselves to have more visitors, and how they sell their products and services. Share your observation with your group during the fieldwork.

**MON 4/15, 5pm: Living in Japan Post 2 Due**

- Everybody should post Living in Japan Post 2 (see Guidelines for Posting).

**TUE 4/16, 10-11:45am: "Living in Japan" Conversation 2 (ASST 286)**

- There will be six student leaders (TBA) who will lead small group discussion.
- The leaders are responsible for reading Living in Japan Post 2 of your two group mates before class, and leading small group discussion (about 20 minutes) in class.
- You do not need to prepare any handout, but please bring two or three questions to discuss with your group. Your responsibilities are to (1) summarize and share the posts of your group mates; (2) discuss the common threads or differences in your perspective and experiences; (3) while thoughtfully and respectfully listening to everybody and taking notes of the conversation; and (3) report the results of your conversation to the entire class.

**TUE 4/16, 11pm: Group A, Regular Post 2 Due**

- Those in Group A should post Regular Post 2. Your post should cover one or more of the materials assigned for Wednesday.

**WED 4/17**

- Moerman, *Localizing Paradise*, Chapter 1, 1-36 (Stop before "Structure and Agenda"); Fig 1.8, on p. 17 of Moerman, "Diagram of Nachi Sankei Mandala," is a simplified version of this image: [Nachi Sankei Mandara](#) from Nara Chiiki Kanren Shiryo Gazo Database.
- OPTIONAL: Moerman, *Localizing Paradise*, Chapter 3, 92-107.
- "World Heritage: Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range" (Wakayama prefecture travel brochure). The PDF includes, not only the English version, but also the Japanese version for those who want to read some of this in Japanese.

**THU 4/18-SAT 4/20: Kumano Trip**

**MON 4/22, 11pm: Reflection Post 2 Due**

- Everybody should read Jamel and Hill, and submit Reflection Post 2 (see Guidelines for Posting). We will discuss your reflection post in class.

**TUE 4/23**

- This week, RELG 279 will meet on TUE 4/23, and NOT MON 4/22, to allow you extra time to recover from and reflect on the Kumano trip.
- Jamel and Hill, “The Home and the World: (Post)touristic Spaces of (In)authenticity?” in *The Tourist as a Metaphor of the Social World*, Chapter 5 (77-91; the rest is optional).

**TUE 4/23, 11pm: Group B, Regular Post 2 Due**

- Those in Group B should post Regular Post 2. Your post should cover one or more of the materials assigned for Wednesday.

**WED 4/24:**

- [Miyamoto](#), *Beyond the Mushroom Cloud*, Chapter 1 (13-46).

**FRI 4/26, 2-4pm: Lecture by Professor Hillary Pedersen at Shunkōin****FRI 4/26, 11pm: Midterm Report Due**

- Everybody should submit Midterm Report (see Guidelines for Class Project).

***Please schedule Progress Meeting 2 for Week 6 or Week 7 via Asuka’s Office Hours.***

----- MON 4/29 - MON 5/6: Golden Week. No Class -----

----- Week 6 -----

***Please schedule Progress Meeting 2 for Week 6 or Week 7 via Asuka’s Office Hours if you haven’t done so already.***

**MON 5/6, 5pm: Reflection Post 3 Due**

- Everybody should post Reflection Post 3 (see Guidelines for Posting). We will discuss your reflection post in class.

**TUE 5/7, 10-11:45am: “Living in Japan” Conversation 3 (ASST 286)**

- There will be six student leaders (TBA) who will lead small group discussion.
- The leaders are responsible for reading Reflection Post 3 of your two group mates before class, and leading small group discussion (about 20 minutes) in class.
- You do not need to prepare any handout, but please bring two or three questions to discuss with your group. Your responsibilities are to (1) summarize and share the posts of your group mates; (2) discuss the common threads or differences in your perspective and experiences; (3) while

thoughtfully and respectfully listening to everybody and taking notes of the conversation; and (3) report the results of your conversation to the entire class.

**TUE 5/7, 11pm: Group A, Regular Post 3 Due**

- Those in Group A should post Regular Post 3. Your post should cover one or more of the readings assigned for Wednesday.

**WED 5/8**

- [Miyamoto](#), *Beyond the Mushroom Cloud*, Chapter 2, 47-80.
- Broderick, "Topographies of trauma: dark tourism, world heritage and Hiroshima." *Intersections* 24 (2010): about 10-page long (Note that the link to the clip from the anime Barefoot Gen does not work; please disregard it).

**THU 5/9 - SAT 5/11: Hiroshima Trip**

----- Week 7 -----

***Please schedule Progress Meeting 2 via Asuka's Office Hours, if you haven't done so already.***

**MON 5/13, 11pm: Reflection Post 4 and Group B, Regular Post Due**

- You can choose to submit either Reflection Post 4 or Reflection Post 5 (see Guidelines for Posting). Choose whichever best suits your schedule. We will discuss your reflection post in class.

**TUE 5/14:**

- This week, RELG 279 will meet on TUE 5/14, and NOT MON 5/13, to allow you extra time to recover from and reflect on the Hiroshima trip.
- Sakamoto, "Mobilizing Affect for Collective War Memory." *Cultural Studies* 29, no. 2 (2015): 158-179.
- OPTIONAL: O'Dwyer, "The Yasukuni Shrine and the Competitive Patriotic Past of East Asia." *History and Memory* 22, no. 2 (2010).
- OPTIONAL: "Tokyo, a 400-Year Narrative" (excerpt), *Niponica: Discovering Japan* 22 (2018).

**MON 5/13-TUE 5/21: Advising Days at Carleton.**

- Remember to contact your adviser via email and discuss your courses for fall.

**WED 5/15: Aoi Matsuri**

- Religion class in the morning will be cancelled to allow you time to go observe the Aoi Festival, one of the major annual festivals for Kamigamo Shrine, which was the site of your first group fieldwork.
- Please read [Nelson](#), *Enduring Identities*, "May 15" section in Chapter 7, 220-228, in preparation for your observation of the Aoi Festival to learn about the festival before you go observe the festival.

- The Aoi festival procession will start in the imperial palace at 10:30am. You can either take Karasuma line to Maruta-machi and walk to Kawara-machi Dōri, or just walk there. There you can see the procession on Kawara-machi Dōri by Kamo River between Maruta-machi Dōri and Imadegawa Dōri. It takes about an hour for the entire procession to pass. So it will be moving on Kawara-machi Dōri between these two streets from about 10:50 to 11:50am or so. Try to be there at least by 10:50am.
- It will be crowded and hard for us to stay in one group. So I'd just expect you to go there either by yourself or in small groups. We will have a follow-up conversation about this on May 22 during our Tokyo trip because it's related to the topic of Yasukuni shrine, which we will visit that day.
- Please start reading Heine, *Sacred High City, Sacred Low City*, Introduction and Chapter 3, excerpt (about 50 pages). You need to finish reading this before you leave for Tokyo next Tuesday.

### **WED 5/15, 4:15-6:30pm: Ikebana Workshop @ Ikenobo Kaikan**

15:45: Meet right outside of the convenience store, Ryoshinkan Convenience Store, at the basement level of Ryoshinkan. Please make sure to have at least 450-500 yen on your ICOCA card. We can only wait for 5 minutes. If you are late, please come to Ikenobo Kaikan by yourself. The location is marked on our google map.

### **WED 5/15, 5pm: Scrunch Deadline**

- If you want to scrunch a course, please submit your scrunch card by 5pm on WED 5/15 to make it to the scrunch deadline back on campus.

----- Week 8 -----

### **MON 5/20: No Class; Prepare for Tokyo Trip; Registration Begins at Carleton.**

- Tomorrow we will leave for Tokyo. There is no class, but before you leave, please read Heine, *Sacred High City, Sacred Low City*, Introduction and Chapter 3, excerpt (about 50 pages; you have already read pp. 101-105 earlier, and so you can skip this part). This reading is relevant to Group Fieldwork 3 that you will be conducting in Tokyo.
- Also, please review the section, "Three Shrines in Akasaka, Tokyo," in Guidelines for Group Project. During our Tokyo trip, you will be given time to work with your group to make plans.
- Finally, at Carleton, the registration begins today. Please check your registration schedule and register for fall term courses.

### **TUE 5/21 - FRI 5/24: Tokyo Trip.**

----- Week 9 -----

### **MON 5/27, 11pm: Reflection Post 5 and Group Fieldwork Report Due**

- Those who did not submit Reflection Post 4 should submit Reflection Post 5 to Moodle. We will discuss your reflection post in class on Tuesday.
- If you were the group leader for Group Fieldwork 3, please upload Group Fieldwork Report to Moodle. We will discuss your report in class on Tuesday. If you feel pressed for time because of the Tokyo trip, you may submit your report after class, by TUE 5/28, 11pm, but you'd still need to be able to talk about it in Tuesday class.

### **TUE 5/28**

- This week, RELG 279 will meet on TUE 5/28, and NOT MON 5/27, to allow you extra time to recover from and reflect on the Tokyo trip.
- No reading is assigned. In class we will discuss group fieldwork reports and reflection posts.

### **WED 5/29: No Class; But Final Reflection Essay is due at 5pm**

- I am canceling this class session to allow extra time for you to prepare for your Japanese final and for our symposium, but Final Reflection Essay is due at 5pm. See Guidelines for Posting.

### **THU 5/30: Symposium** (I asked Kana san to reserve a room from 10am-4pm)

- Please upload your Presentation Powerpoint to Moodle by 9am in the morning.
- Schedule of Symposium (tentative, subject to change)
  - 10:30-11:30am: Session 1 (9 project presentations) @ Ryoshinkan 426
  - 11:45am-12:45pm: Farewell Lunch @ E-San
  - 1-2pm: Session 2 (9 project presentations) @ Ryoshinkan 445
  - 2-4pm: Video recording of your reflection with Jessica (1 min for each student) @ Ryoshinkan 445

### **SAT 6/1, 11pm: Final Project Report Due**

- See Guidelines for Posting.

----- END -----

SUN 6/2: Packing

MON 6/3: Leave

WED 6/12: Senior Grades Due

WED 6/19: Grades Due