A multicultural interdisciplinary course about asking questions and changing how we view the world and travel in it

Religion 180, First-Year Seminar

TRAVEL, MYTHIC AND MODERN

**Heroic Travel:** India’s ancient superhero, Rama; China’s flying trickster, Monkey; Babylonia’s Gilgamesh, who entered the Netherworld to end death; Odysseus, Siddhartha the Buddha, Moses in the wilderness. Black Elk’s vision. Basho, the Japanese pilgrim who wrote Haiku along his way. Muhammad Assad on The Road to Mecca.

**Modern Travel:** Charles Darwin, scientific traveler; Nellie Bly, journalist racing to round the world in 72 days; Leonard Black, fugitive slave; Sir Richard Burton, romantic explorer; and excerpts from *Heart of Darkness* and the satiric American novel, *Dodsworth*

Contemporary **theories about travel:** Outside Lies Magic, the Art of Travel, the Art of Pilgrimage, The Mind of the Traveler, Hero with a Thousand Faces, Encountering “the Other,” American college students abroad, tales from the Peace Corps

**New-age** spirituality and spiritual tourism. “The Pure Jones of It” “No Shit, There I Was” “Passing Through” “Arriving”

**Travel Movies**

An experiential component: brief individual and group travel experiments, a panel of “professors who travel,” and journal exercises (including great travel movies). Assignments: occasional oral introductions to the readings, a journal, and a paper-in-progress, with drafts due each week.

Taught by Prof. R Marks