

UNIVERSITY OF WALES, LAMPETER

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Department: Archaeology & Anthropology	Module Code: MARCH7520
Module Title:	Sacred Geography
Level: 4	Term Taught: 1 or 2
No of Credits: 20	
Methods of assessment:	One 1500 word essay or critical literature reviews (25% of the module marks). One 4500 word essay (75% of the module marks).
Teaching Method(s):	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork
Pre-requisite(s): None	
Co-requisite(s): None	Incompatibles: None
Taught through the medium of Welsh	No
Lecturer/Co-ordinator:	Dr Nick Campion
Contact hours: 30 hours	Lectures per week: Module typically taught by distance and intensive study school.
Agreed Teaching Slot(s):	
Syllabus: 1. An investigation the concept of 'sacred geography', interpreted in a broad sense to include sacred geography, space, topography, landscapes and religious cosmologies. 2. An examination of the theories of sacred and profane space and ideas of whether the sacred is inherent in space, or is projected on to it, drawing on the work of theorists such as Eliade, Cassirer, Tilley and Merleau-Ponti, and in relation to such theoretical frameworks as phenomenology and embodiment. 3. An exploration of the theory and practice of sacred architecture in a range of cultures, east and west, ancient and modern. 4. An examination of the theory and practice of pilgrimage. 5. An introduction to the theory and arguments of archaeoastronomy. 6. An examination of the development of theories of 'earth mysteries'.	
Learning Outcomes: By the end of the module and associated assessment students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of sacred geography, sacred space and cosmology. 2. Reflect on the relationship between sacred geography and the formation and	

maintenance of consensual and contested socio-religious identities.

3. Evaluate the ways in which sacred geography manifests in, and relates to, different dimensions of human religious experience in at least one case study.

4. Critique related concepts, such as theories of pilgrimage, sacred architecture.

5. Place the disciplines of archaeoastronomy and earth-mysteries in their historical context.

Transferable and other skills involved

Critical thinking, including evaluation of primary and secondary evidence.

Written communication

Independent, self-directed study and time management.

The ability to reach fair and balanced conclusions based on evaluation of the evidence.

Main recommended texts:

Abram, David, *The Spell of the Sensuous* (New York: Vintage 1997).

Artress, Lauren, *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool* (New York: Riverhead Books 1995).

Arnold, Philip P and Ann Grodzins Gold (eds.), *Sacred Landscapes and Cultural Politics* (Aldershot: Ashgate 2001).

Bender, Barbara, *Landscape: Politics and Perspectives*, (Oxford: Berg 1993).

Cassirer, Ernst, *The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms*, Vol 2., *Mythical Thought* (New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1971 [1955]).

Coleman and, S., and J.Elsner, *Pilgrimage past and present in the world religions* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 1995).

Devereux, Paul, *Earth Mysteries* (London: Piatkus 1999).

Durkheim, Emile, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, trans. Karen E. Fields (New York: Free Press 1995 [1st edn., *Les Formes élémentaires de la vie religieuse*, Paris; F. Alcan 1912]).

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane* (New York: Harcourt Brace 1959)

Gittlen, Barry M. (ed.). *Sacred Time / Sacred Place: Archaeology and the Religion of Israel* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2002).

Hiscock, Nigel, *The Wise Master Builder: Platonic Geometry in Plans of Medieval Abbeys and Cathedrals* (Aldershot: Ashgate 2000)

Holm, Jean and John Bowker (eds.). *Sacred Place* (London: Pinter, 1994).

Humphrey, Caroline and Piers Vitebsky, <i>Sacred Architecture</i> (New York: Little Brown 1997). Ivakhiv, Adrian J. <i>Claiming Sacred Ground: Pilgrims and Politics at Glastonbury and Sedona</i> (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2001). Lane, Belden C. <i>Landscapes of the Sacred: Geography and Narrative in American Spirituality</i> (London: John Hopkins University Press, 2002). Leviton, Richard. <i>The Galaxy on Earth: A Traveler's to the Planet's Visionary Geography</i> (Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads, 2002). Massey, Doreen, <i>Space, Place and Gender</i> (Oxford: Blackwell 1994). Pennick, Nigel, <i>Sacred Geometry: Symbolism and Purpose in Religious Structures</i> (Wellingborough: Turnstone Press 1980). Ruggles, Clive, <i>Astronomy in Prehistoric Britain and Ireland</i> (New Haven and London: Yale University Press 1999). Schama, Simon, <i>Landscape and Memory</i> (New York: Fontana 1996). Sheldrake, Philip, <i>Living Between Worlds: place and journey in celtic spirituality</i> (London: Darton, Longman and Todd 1995). Soja, Edward W., <i>Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory</i>, (London Verso, 2003 [1989]). Swan, James A. <i>The Power of Place: Sacred Ground in Natural and Human Environments</i> (Bath: Gateway, 1993). Tilley, Christopher, <i>A Phenomenology of Landscape</i> (Oxford: Berg 1994). Trubshaw, Bob, <i>Sacred Places: Prehistory and Popular Imagination</i>, Wymeswold: Heart of Albion Press 2005. Walters, Derek. <i>The Feng Shui Handbook: The Practical Guide to Chinese Geomancy and Environmental Harmony</i> (London: Thorsons, 1995). Westwood, Jennifer. <i>Sacred Journeys: Paths for the New Pilgrim</i> (London: Gaia, 1997).
Evaluation (including student evaluation): Module evaluation form Internal review Biennial and quinquennial review
Date when first introduced: 2009

