

Pilgrims in the Early Christian World

Start date 2 February 2018**End date** 4 February 2018**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Professor Edward James**Course code** 1718NRX039**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this
course, please contact**Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237**To book** See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Edward James is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin. He has taught at York and Rutgers, and held the Chair of Medieval History at the University of Reading before being appointed to the equivalent post in Dublin. His DPhil from Oxford was on the archaeology of south-west Gaul in the early Middle Ages, and he has taught archaeology as well as history, and always tries to use both archaeological and historical evidence where possible. He has written numerous articles on the archaeology and history of late antiquity and the early Middle Ages, and his books include *The Origins of France* (1982), *The Franks* (1988), *Britain in the First Millennium* (2001) and *Europe's Barbarians, AD 200-600* (2009). His most recent book is *Lois McMaster Bujold*, in the University of Illinois Press's series "Modern Masters of Science Fiction" (2015). He is working on two projects at the moment, an introduction to the sixth-century writer Gregory of Tours, and a study of how to post a letter in Late Antiquity.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Pilgrimage in the pre-Christian world
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The origins of Christian pilgrimage
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	The earliest pilgrimage narratives: the Bordeaux Pilgrim and Egeria
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Christian opposition to pilgrimage
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Pilgrimage to Rome
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The architecture of pilgrimage
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Pilgrimage to Tours: the <i>Miracles of St Martin</i>
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- Outline the history of Christian pilgrimage before the eighth century AD
- Discuss the nature and significance of pilgrimage within the early Church
- Critically discuss the nature of the evidence for early pilgrimage

Content:

It is difficult to discuss early Christian pilgrimage without imposing later ideas of pilgrimage on the early centuries. The early Christian languages (Latin and Greek) did not have a specific word for pilgrimage, and had no clear idea of the purpose of travelling to holy places; indeed, some Christian thinkers did not actually approve of such travel at all. But gradually the idea of pilgrimage took hold, and travelling to particular holy places — above all Jerusalem, but also Rome and other places (Santiago comes outside the compass of this course) — became an integral part of Christian practice. Churches were designed to accommodate pilgrims; pilgrim hostels were set up in all major pilgrimage centres; guide-books were written to help the travellers. This course will look at three main pilgrimage sites: Jerusalem with its Biblical sites, Rome with its martyrs, and Tours with the tomb of St Martin. The course will introduce some of the important texts in the early history of pilgrimage, which will be given out in a hand-out and discussed in the sessions.

Presentation of the course:

Each class will begin with a short lecture, followed by a class discussion, which as far as possible will centre on a text or series of texts that will be given to students.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the main outline of early pilgrimage history
- Critically read the sources for early pilgrimage history
- Begin to understand the wide variety of motives that pilgrims had for undertaking their difficult and often dangerous journeys

Reading and resources list

There is no single book discussing pilgrimage during the whole period of this course. Probably the best single book on pilgrimage as a whole is Jonathan Sumption, *Pilgrimage* (Faber, 1975, and later editions), which is not apparently in print but is available on Kindle and through Amazon. Other rather more technical but nevertheless very interesting books are:

- Bitton-Ashkelony, Bruria. *Encountering the Sacred: The Debate on Christian Pilgrimage in Late Antiquity* (University of California Press, 2005)
- Coleman, Simon and Elsner, John, eds. *Pilgrim Voices: Narrative and Authorship in Christian Pilgrimage* (Berghahn, 2002)
- Dietz, Maribel. *Wandering Monks, Virgins and Pilgrims: Ascetic Travel in the Mediterranean World, AD 300-800* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005)
- Ellis, Linda, and Kidner, Frank L., eds. *Travel, Communication and Geography in Late Antiquity: Sacred and Profane* (Ashgate, 2004)
- Elsner, Jas, and Rutherford, Ian, eds. *Pilgrimage in Graeco-Roman and Early Christian Antiquity: Seeing the Gods* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Frank, Georgia. *The Memory of the Eyes: Pilgrims to Living Saints in Christian Late Antiquity* (University of California Press, 2000)
- Frankfurter, David. *Pilgrimage and Holy Space in Late Antique Egypt* (Brill, 1998)
- Hunt, E.D. *Holy Land Pilgrimage in the Later Roman Empire, AD 312-460* (Oxford University Press, 1982)
- Llewellyn, Peter. *Rome in the Dark Ages* (Faber and Faber 1971, and later editions): an excellent chapter on "Rome of the Pilgrims"
- Stopford, Jenny, ed. *Pilgrimage Explored* (Boydell, 1999)
- Van Dam, Raymond. *Saints and Their Miracles in Late Antique Gaul* (Princeton University Press, 1993)
- Webb, Diana. *Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in the Medieval West* (I.B. Tauris, 2001)
- Wilkinson, John. *Egeria's Travels* (SPCK, 1971, and reprinted)
- Wilkinson, John. *Jerusalem Pilgrims before the Crusades* (Aris and Phillips, 1978)

The project "Egeria: Mediterranean Medieval Places of Pilgrimage" is at <http://www.egeriaproject.net/main.aspx>

The Centre for Pilgrimage Studies, at the University of York, also has a website: <http://www.pilgrimagestudies.ac.uk>

Early Christian Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:
<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/ofm/pilgr/00PilgrHome.html>

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