Summer 2022—STUDY ABROAD in Greece/Turkey

BIC 4389 Pilgrimage and Martyrdom
Dr. Jason Whitlark

This course explores the concepts of pilgrimage and martyrdom. Medieval pilgrimages by Christians were a significant spiritual discipline. “Pilgrimage is a journey to sacred places. Every place has a story, and sacred places are those places whose story is associated with God’s self-revelation and with the lives of the holy” (New Westminster Dictionary of Spirituality). These pilgrimages had as their goal to visit the places of martyrdom and martyr relics. Thus, we will examine how the stories of martyrs shape our own understanding of the life that is worth living. We will also examine how the metaphor of pilgrimage helps us examine the lives we have lived and the ones we hope to live. Another title of the course could have been “living courageously.”

Fall 2022

BIC Capstone Opportunities for Fall 2022

BIC 4389 Yoga and Philosophy in Contemporary American Culture
Dr. Anne-Marie Schultz

In this practice-based class, we will explore the various ways that traditional yoga philosophy and asana practice has adapted to become an important aspect of self-care for millions of Americans. In each class, we will discuss yoga philosophy and do a yoga practice. We will revisit portions of The Bhagavad Gita and work through Patanjali’s famous aphorisms about yoga. We will also read two memoirs about contemporary yoga practice. Students will be required to keep a semester long blog about this class and write a final paper that draws together a variety of elements of their BIC experience.

BIC 4389 The Once and Future King
Dr. Ann McGlashan, Dr. Lynn Tatum

Three of the most powerful narratives that have shaped Western civilization deal with an unlikely hero—a youngster who, perhaps by drawing a sword from a stone or slaying a giant, becomes recognized as a “king.” Tragically, the king dies, but yet he provides a “messianic” hope for a future of peace and justice: David, Jesus, Arthur, —The Once and Future King. In this course we will examine the background, the origins, and the later evolution of these foundational epics. We will look at history, at art, and at faith, and we will challenge ourselves to think more deeply about the world and our place within it. How do these stories tell us who we are, and who we should become? This class includes a final retreat, where we will reflect on the semester.

Note: Specific reading is subject to change. These descriptions represent a general overview of possible reading selections.