



Celebrating Diversity in our Multicultural Valley:

Ethnic Sacred Places

EDUO 9820

One Semester Credit/Unit

Course Description:

In the San Joaquin valley, classrooms are comprised of children of immigrants from all over the world, such as the Armenians, Vietnamese, Japanese, Germans from Russia, and Mexicans. They came to escape persecution and/or to have a better life in this rich agricultural area. Along with their belongings, they brought their own religious beliefs, This self-paced class will offer teachers the opportunity to tour historic as well as more contemporary ethnic churches, mosques, and temples that are the sacred places of worship in our multicultural community. Participants in this class will be warmly welcomed at all ethnic sacred places.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will learn about their students' cultural heritage, and religious traditions.
2. Teachers will gain knowledge about historic buildings that are being preserved for posterity.
3. Teachers will gain a better appreciation of the religious customs and celebrations of the more recent ethnic influx of immigrants into our valley.

Class Requirements:

1. Register signing up online at <http://dominicanCAonline.com/california13.htm> which will take you to Bob and Julie Gray's Dominican University website.
2. Participants in this class will tour **a minimum of four** historic and/or contemporary

sacred places that are highly recommended in the area. **However, instructor permission is not needed if sacred places from other areas of the San Joaquin Valley are toured.** For Fresno, it is recommended that teachers choose some historic and some contemporary sacred places to tour, in order to get the full benefit of this class.

3. Also, any church/temple/mosque special event or festival can be substituted for a tour of an ethnic spiritual place. For example, the Hindu temple has many colorful festivals and events to choose from and enjoy.
4. Participants will submit one written reflection for each of the four sacred places visited. The reflections for the four sacred places should be one page or more in length. The instructor can be reached at (559) 225-9020 (evenings or weekends only) or emailed at jbcoordinators@gmail.com if there are any questions or concerns.
5. The Summary and Evaluation page of the course should be completed and sent in with the six write-ups as an attachment through email at jbcoordinators@gmail.com. If coursework needs to be mailed, send to: Julie Gray/Ethnic Sacred Places, 4743 N. Thorne Ave., Fresno, Ca. 93704.

Grading policy: The four reflections on each historic and/or contemporary ethnic sacred place visited, in addition to the Summary and Evaluation page, must be completed for an "A" grade. **Photos from each visit should be included as proof of visitation.** Please note that the work for a one-unit university graduate class is a required 12-15 hours.

Written Response Rubric:

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations A+ to A-	Acceptable: Meets Expectations B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement, Must be resubmitted.
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment, some ideas unclear.
Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience.	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.

Free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing difficult to read.
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Note: The instructor has toured all the sacred places listed below. When you call and ask for a tour, explain that you are part of the Dominican University class that is learning about ethnic sacred places in Fresno. Contacts for each church or temple are listed and each one is willing to meet with you to provide information about their sacred place. In addition, the instructor can also be contacted at jbcoordinators@gmail.com, to set up a personal tour. Please note, times of services can change, so check with each site for up-to-date information.

Historic Ethnic Sacred Places

1. Japanese Buddhist Temple

Location: 1340 Kern St. in downtown Fresno.

Website info: www.gofresnocounty.com/SacredPlaces/FresnoJapanese.htm

Service: Sundays at 10:00 a.m., at the new Family Dharma Center, located at 2720 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno, Ca. 93720.

Head minister: Rev. Kakei Nakagawa

Email: www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org

Contact person: Lee Osaki-Office manager at 442-4054 to arrange a tour with Rev. Alan Sakamoto of the historical temple.

2. St. Genevieve's Church

This historic Catholic church originally served the Chinese community.

Location: 1127 Tulare Street (on the corner of Tulare and Kern.)

Website info: www.gofresnocounty.com/SacredPlaces/GenevievesChurch.htm

Phone: 486-2988

Contact person: Linda Hamilton: 243-0303 (the organist) for an 11:30 a.m. tour after church services have concluded. A social hour follows in the basement. The church is closed every day except for Sunday services and/or special events. This tiny church is especially recommended for its uniqueness.

3. Tam Bao Tu Temple

Vietnamese Buddhist Temple

Website info: www.gofresnocounty.com/SacredPlaces/TamBaoTu/htm

Location: 2459 S. Elm Street..

Services: 9:00-10:30 (in Vietnamese only.)

Contact Mei Meidinger, who speaks English and can meet you after Sunday services have ended, for a tour of this small temple. Her phone number is: (209) 264-2728, and she will be driving down from Merced!

4. Free Evangelical Lutheran Cross Church

This church was the original church for the Germans from Russia.
(It is now the Fresno Temple, Church of God in Christ—an African-American congregation).

Website info: www.gofresnocounty.com/SacredPlaces/FreeEvangelical/htm

Contact: Dr. Norman Bitter, 431-2684, a German from Russia, whose family lived across the street from this church, for details of the history of this church.

Location: 208 E. Street (Corner of California and E Street.)

Pastor: Harry Miller

Phone: 266-2747 or 907-7615

Services: Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

It is highly recommended that you also visit the American Society of Germans from Russia Museum, located at 3233 N. West Ave. (229-8287) for information about the church and to view pictures of the church being moved to its present site, as well as other interesting items that are on display. The museum has a docent on Thursdays and is open from 12-4:00 p.m.

5. Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church

Website info: www.gofresnocounty.com/SacredPlaces/HolyTrinity.htm

Location: 2226 Ventura Street -corner of Ventura and M street
in downtown Fresno, near Selland Arena.

Phone: 486-1141.

Time of service: 10:00-12:00.

Contact: nazenil@sbcglobal.net to request a tour, or call her at the church office.

Please note the recent renovation of the original Armenian homes located behind the church on the southeast lot.

Contemporary Ethnic Sacred Places Information

1. Hindu Temple of Fresno

Address: 7699 East Alluvial Ave. Clovis, Ca. 93611. Phone: 325-7233

Website: www.hindutemplefresno.org

For a personal tour, contact the priest Marthanda Sharma. Cell: 502-1

Check the website for events that are happening each week/month. The special events are not to be missed! Note: Head coverings for women are required to enter the temple, and all shoes must be left outside of the temple.

Temple timing and programs: Monday- Friday: 10:00 am -12:30 pm/ Evenings: 5:30 pm-8:00 pm. Wednesday-Temple open, but there are no Priest Services.

Saturday/Sunday: 10:00-am-2:00 pm/Evenings: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Contact person: Call/email the temple for a personal tour in English, or by contacting the Priest, whose name is Marthanda Sharma, at 502-819-1999.

2. The Fresno Cambodian Buddhist Temple

Address: 2533 N. Valentine Ave. Directions: Go West on Clinton (cross the 99 freeway) and turn right (north) on Valentine. The temple will be on your left.

Phone: 276-2924

Website: http://www.crcfresno.org/Wat_Khmer_Fresno.html

Events: The Temple is open every day. Sunday services are all day until 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Mr. Yito Mian (President of the Board of the Fresno Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc.) or his wife Sita, at 316-9376 to set up a tour in English.

3. The Masjid Fresno Islamic Center

Address: 2111 E. Shaw Ave., across from CSUF. Phone: 222-6686 (office)

Website: www.masjidfresno.com.

Phone: 222-6686

The Imam is Dr. Sheikh Syed Ramadan. Contact the Imam for a tour any time at (559) 273-3672.

Services: Saturday: 10 am and 3 pm. Sunday: 6 pm- free classes about Islam. Every day there are five daily prayers during the early morning, noon, afternoon, at sunset, and at night. Women must cover their head with a scarf, dress modestly, and you will observe the service from a separate room than the men's room. Men and women remove their shoes in the entry room. The mosque is accustomed to visitors and the Imam is happy to sit with you in his office and talk about Islamic beliefs.

4. Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

www.stgeorgefresno.org

Email: SGGOC@comcast.net

Address: 2219 N. Orchard St., Fresno. (One block SW of First and Clinton, behind the Fresno Art Museum.) Phone: 233-0397

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am -3:00 pm.

Services: Sunday, 9:30 am. is the main service. You can sign in as a guest before entering the main chapel and let them know you are here for the Dominican University class.

Contact: Rev. Jim Pappas. He will be happy answer all questions after the service and discuss the restoration of the Icons that are now completed in the sanctuary. This church is frequently toured because of its history and beauty.

5. Sikh Institute

www.fresnosikhs.org

Address: 4827 North Parkway Drive in Fresno.

Phone: Contact the secretary, Gurpreet Singh Mann at 779-2286 for a tour in English and let him know you are taking this Dominican University class. The office phone is 221-5121. Services: Sunday, 11:30 am. The priest's name is Harjinder Singh Dhillon. The best day to tour the temple with Gurpreet Mann, is on Fridays, or Sundays, after the services.

A head scarf for women is required in the temple, and shoes must be removed before entering the building. This three story temple has just been completed, and construction is ongoing on the grounds and a medical center.

6. First Chinese Baptist Church

www.fbcfresno.org. This website has the church history under the tab: About Us.

Address: 6080 N. Angus St. Going east on Bullard, cross Hwy 41 and watch for a left turn lane onto Angus—the church will be on the right at the far corner. You will park behind the church next to the gorgeous Asian gardens/pond.

Phone: 438-0303 Pastor: Rev. Danny Jack -pastoriack@fbcfresno.org

Services: 11:00 am, followed by a Tea Social.

Contact church member Walter Fung at for a tour and explanation of the history of this church.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Typed reflections of one page or longer for each ethnic sacred place visited must include, but are not limited, to the following questions:

1. Describe your experiences touring each ethnic sacred place and/or service. What interesting facts did you learn about the history of each ethnic sacred site in downtown Fresno? What did you learn about the newer, contemporary spiritual places you visited?
2. What are the specific ethnic influences that you observed at the sacred places? (For example, at St. Genevieve's Church, all the Biblical figures such as Jesus, are depicted as being Chinese.)
3. Other observations that you have about your visit should be mentioned. What more would you like to learn about the sacred places? Was there a member of the church/temple who was helpful in your understanding of the services and/or history of the sacred place?
4. Did this glimpse of the ethnic churches and temples increase your understanding of the cultures of the students you teach in your classroom?

5. If you attended a cultural event, describe the event and what you enjoyed and learned from attending it.

Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course. What suggestions do you have for improving this self-paced class? Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Thank you.

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7699 E Alluvial Ave, Clovis, CA 93619

[Add Destination - Show options](#)

Suggested routes

- . **12.4 mi, 20 mins** In current traffic: 21 mins **W Shaw Ave and CA-168**
- . 13.2 mi, 23 mins No traffic information CA-168
- . 12.9 mi, 24 mins In current traffic: 24 mins E Bullard Ave and CA-168

Driving directions to 7699 E Alluvial Ave, Clovis, CA 93619



4743 N Thorne Ave
Fresno, CA 93704

1. Head north on N Thorne Ave toward W Santa Ana Ave

0.3 mi

2. Take the 2nd right onto W Shaw Ave

4.4 mi

3. Take the CA-168 E ramp

0.2 mi

4. Merge onto CA-168

6.2 mi

5. Turn right onto Dragonfly Ln

453 ft

6. Turn right onto Tollhouse Rd

0.4 mi

7. Take the 2nd left onto N De Wolf Ave

0.5 mi

8. Turn left onto E Alluvial Ave

Destination will be on the right

0.2 mi



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Clovis, CA 93619