The growing field of medical geography puts emphasis on the bodily experience of place and the production of local knowledge about specific places, while it draws on the constitutive link between bodies, wellness, memory, and place. From antiquity to our day, therapeutic landscapes such as mineral and thermal springs, mysterious caves, shrines and churches built at sacred springs, volcanic ash mud baths, rocky landscapes emitting odorous gasses that stimulate hallucination, and ponds filled with medicinal leeches that cure blood diseases, all attracted health pilgrims who immersed their bodies into the geological substance of these locales or ingested their waters for miraculous healing. Practices of storytelling transformed these locales into places of memory and long term pilgrimage. This seminar investigates places of bodily healing and miracle from a cultural studies perspective, and takes into account recent scholarly literature on place, bodily experience, memory, and storytelling. The case studies will be primarily drawn from the Mediterranean world and Western Asia. Special emphasis will be placed on geologically wondrous locales such as Lourdes in France, Hierapolis in Southeastern Turkey and the Agiasma churches of Byzantine Istanbul that link ancient places of healing to modern sites of pilgrimage and religious heritage.
the chorus. Following the discussion, members of the chorus are expected to write up brief responses in their logbooks, and/or post them on the wiki. It is advisable that you start looking at the weekly topics soon to choose your preferred theme for acting in the chorus.

- **Logbook: an intimate record:** You will be asked to keep a logbook throughout the semester to keep a consistent and rich documentation of your ideas, thoughts, projects, visual imagery that this class has provoked in your mind. You will use your logbook as a fieldbook and the exercise is intended to provide you the skills to keep a thorough and detailed record of your observations. Hard bound plain notebooks are recommended and are available at the bookstore. However, you are free (and indeed encouraged) to try different formats, or produce the logbook yourself. The logbook will be an accumulated product of the whole semester’s work of note-taking, writing, sketching, drawing, cutting-pasting etc, using any kind of media. It will be your own design, your own work of art. It will be reviewed by Ömür twice during the semester. Expected minimum for the content of the logbooks will be the core concepts to be covered in seminar discussions. Please remember the logbook can not simply be composed of the notes that you keep in class. It is a written documentation of your personal thoughts and memories. Students who prefer to keep a digital notebook or those who’d like to create a blog instead of a logbook are welcome to do so.

- **Projects and Paper assignments:** You will be working on two small projects during the semester and a final research paper (12-15 pages). The deadlines for these projects and papers are on your weekly schedule. The first project (1500-2000 word essay with a visual component, written as a public access web document) will involve a group or individual work on a "place" or "landscape" in New England region and the stories attached to it. The topic(s) of the second assignment will be determined later, based on the interests of the class, but it will broadly look at the relationship between healing and the cultures of place. The final paper will be an 12-15 page individual research paper on a topic that is to be determined between you and the instructor. This final paper can be developed from the first two shorter writing assignments. It will be due in the beginning of the finals period (December 14th).

- **Grading:**
  Attendance and Participation (including Chorus duty) 25%,
  Two Projects 30%
  Final Paper 30%
  Logbook 15%

---

**Books available at Brown Bookstore**


Tuan, Yi-Fu; 1977. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press.
Weekly Schedule
Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Week 1. September 7. *Introduction to Places of Healing: Keywords of the semester.*


Week 3. September 21. *Place, Landscape and Space: the dwelling perspective*

- Tuan, Yi-Fu; 1977. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience.* Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press. (Chapters 1-4 and 9-10)


Week 5. October 5. *Serbian landscapes of dreamtime and healing: Workshop with Marko Živković, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Alberta*


• Attend Marko Živković’s Public Lecture at Brown:

  **Bubbles and Powder-Kegs: Buses in (ex)Yugoslav Imaginary**
  October 4th, at 5:30 pm, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Pembroke Hall 3rd Floor.

---

**Week 6. October 12. Body, health, healing: the corporeal experience of place**


---

**Week 7. October 19. Ancient practices and places of healing: From the cult of Asklepius in antiquity to Byzantine agiasma churches**


---

**Week 8. October 26. Lourdes: springs, miracles, Marian apparitions, and the deep history of a healing place**

[Second writing assignment due- Place and Healing]


---

**Week 9. November 2. Place, Healing, and Pilgrimage: Workshop with Carla Bellamy, Assistant Professor of South Asian Religion at Baruch College, New York**

**Week 10. November 9.** *Towards an archaeology of natural places: Human interactions with the mineral world*


---

**Week 11. November 16.** *Hittite water cult and spring sanctuaries of rural Anatolia: healing landscapes*


---

November 23. Thanksgiving- no class

---

**Week 12. November 30.** Presentation of Final projects

**Week 13. December 7.** Presentations of Final Projects

December 8-12 Reading Period

**December 14. Final Papers due**