

**THFS 104-01**  
**The Way of Francis and Clare**  
**HONORS**

**Fall, 2022**

**MWF 11:30AM-12:20PM**

**Contact Information**

|               |                                                    |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Instructor:   | Dr. Jim Fodor                                      |
| Office:       | De La Roche 14E (basement)                         |
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| Office Hours: |                                                    |

**Goal 2** – Students will familiarize themselves with those elements of the Christian tradition, especially in its Catholic expression, that shaped and continue to shape the development of the Franciscan vision and imagination, especially the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth; key themes of Christian theology that impacted Francis, Clare, and the subsequent Franciscan movement; and the cultural, social, and moral impact of the Franciscan theological tradition within the wider Catholic tradition. [University Learning Goals 6 a., 5 a.b., 1 b.]

**Goal 3** – Students will read selected primary sources from the Franciscan tradition (e.g., the writings

**2. IQ's and Class Participation (30%)**

*Verbal in-class participation is crucial in a seminar setting.* This does *not* mean that everyone is expected

### 3. Seminar Presentations and Introductions 20% (continued)

#### Written Copy of Seminar Presentation

In addition to orally presenting the material, a written copy of the presentation will also be submitted for evaluation. This should be approximately 4-5 pages (1000-1250 words) typed, double-spaced. The student will submit (as an email attachment to the professor) a written account of the presentation for grading on the day of the seminar presentation (by 12:00 midnight).

#### Format:

##### **A. Oral Introduction**

Expected length of *oral introductions*: 12-15 minutes. Ideally, the oral presentation should...

1. clearly outline what the student considers are the central assumptions that inform the reading (either stated explicitly by the author or implied in what the author writes)
2. identify the central argument(s) or point(s) of the reading
3. critically comment on (i.e., assess or evaluate) those arguments/claims
4. bring the student's own observations and personal experiences (or connections to other courses) to bear on the views of the assigned reading



### **Moodle Updates**

Syllabus and course reading schedules on Moodle are definitive and authoritative. Please check your emails regularly and consult Moodle site for changes and updates in the Course Reading Schedule.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who feel they need academic accommodations should contact Adriane Spencer ([aspencer@sbu.edu](mailto:aspencer@sbu.edu)), Director of Disability Support Services Office, 100D Plassmann Hall (Student Success Center) at 716-375-2065. Please reach out early in the semester so that we can assist you as soon as possible. Documentation from the Disability Support Services Office is required before the instructor can make accommodations.

## **Reading Schedule**

(Subject to Change)

Readings are to be completed before the session for which they are assigned.

### **AUGUST**

Week

## SEPTEMBER

xWednesday 7

- “What is Modernity?” Chapter 1 “Introduction” to Mike Higon and Rachel Muers, *Modern Theology: A Critical Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2015), pp. 1-15 (edited and abridged). [Moodle]

xFriday 9

- “The Changing Global Religious Landscape & the Rise of the Nonaffiliated”

### Historical Origins of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition

Week #3

xMonday 12

- John Kruse, *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*, Chapter 1: “Foundations of a

xWednesday 28

- Dominic Monti, Chapters Two and Three: “Lord Gave Me Brothers” and “Two Saints: Francis and Anthony of Padua,” in *Francis & His Brothers: A Popular History of the Franciscan Order* (Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2009), pp. 17-30 and 31-44 (edited and abridged). [Moodle]

xFriday 30

- Dominic Monti, Chapter Four “Franciscans as Useful to the Church,” in *Francis & His Brothers*, pp. 45-59 (edited and abridged). [Moodle]
- John Kruse, Chapter 2: “A Tradition Develops: Main Figures and Key Characteristics,” in *Discovering the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 23-26 and endnotes pp. 70-71. [Moodle]

## OCTOBER

Week #6

xMonday 3

- Review Session: Revision and Recapitulation

xWednesday 5

Mid-term Test

### Honors Thematic:

“From Polemic and Enmity to Respect and Mutual Learning”

• Friday 7

- Steven J. McMichael, “Francis and the encounter with the sultan (1219),” in *The Cambridge Companion to Francis of Assisi*,

## OCTOBER

Week #8

- Monday 17 Midterm grades due to Registrar by 10:00AM
  - Laurence P. Prior, "Francis of Assisi and a Cosmic Spiritual Religion & Theology," *Religion* 48 (2011), pp. 173-194 (edited and abridged) [Moodle]
- Wednesday 19
  - Carol and Philip Zaleski, "Saint Francis, the Catholic Church and Islam," *Islam et Vetera* English edition, Vol. 13 no. 1 (2015), pp. 39-55 (edited and abridged) [Moodle].
- Friday 21
  - Paul Rout, "St. Francis of Assisi and Islam: A Theological Perspective on a Christian-Muslim Encounter," *Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean*, Vol. 23 no. 3 (2011), pp. 205-215 (edited and abridged) [Moodle].

Week #9

- Monday 24
  - Alon Goshen-Gottstein, "Understanding Jewish Friendship, Extending Friendship Beyond Judaism, in *Friendship Across Religions: Theological Perspectives on Interreligious Friendship* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015), pp. 1-30 (edited and abridged) [Moodle]
- Wednesday 26
  - Miroslav Volf and Ryan McAnnally-Linz, "A Christian Perspective on Interreligious Friendship," in *Friendship Across Religions: Theological Perspectives on Interreligious Friendship* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015), pp. 45-62 (edited and abridged) [Moodle]
- Friday 28
  - Timothy J. Gianotti, "Toward a Muslim Theology of Interreligious Friendship," *Friendship Across Religions: Theological Perspectives on Interreligious Friendship* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015), pp. 77-93 (edited and abridged) [Moodle]

## Key Theological Themes in the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition

Week #10

- Monday 31
  - Brian D. Robinette, "Christology — 'Who Do You Say That I Am?'" *Theological Foundations: Concepts and Methods for Understanding Christian Faith*, revised and expanded, edited by J.J. Mueller, SJ (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2011), pp. 106-117 (edited and abridged). [Moodle]

## NOVEMBER

- Wednesday 2
  - Brian D. Robinette, "Christology — 'Who Do You Say That I Am?'" "The Story Continues," pp. 117-124 [Moodle]
- Thursday 3 Last day to withdraw from an undergraduate course with a W grade

## NOVEMBER



- Saturday 10                      Reading Day
- Sunday 11                      Non-Examination Day
- Monday 12 to Friday 16      Undergraduate Examination Period

**Final examination: Monday 12 December 1:10 to 3:40PM**