

Module Title:	Franciscan Evangelical Life and the Response of the Laity: History Rule and Life of the Secular Franciscan Order
Module Code:	429 FELS
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Kathleen Moffatt OSF MA; Paula Pearce, SFO MA

Module Aims:

The first half of this module is an intense immersion into Franciscan Evangelical life. Theological foundations for the Franciscan Evangelical Life in the light of Scripture and the Writings of St. Francis will be addressed. Study and dialogue with the primary documents of the Franciscan Evangelical Life while appreciating the historical context will be done with the view to affirming the conviction of each branch of the Franciscan Family by applying key documents from the SFO, OFM, OFM Conv. OFM Cap, OSF on Franciscan Evangelical Life. In the second part of the module, students will then be introduced to the lay response to the Franciscan Evangelical Lifestyle through an introduction of the genesis of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO). The nature, identity, rule and way of life of the SFO, promulgated in 1978, will be examined. An analyse of the various processes implemented to enable members to progress with identification with the Pauline Rule will be included.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be expected to

1. have a knowledge of the essential elements of the Franciscan Evangelical Life and be able to apply research to selected characteristics
2. have an understanding of the cultural expressions of the essential elements of the Franciscan Evangelical Life
3. express an appreciation for the work scholars of the Franciscan tradition who are seeking to retrieve the important elements of the Franciscan tradition through the use of video presentations together with key resources for study.
4. be familiar with current scholarship on the development of the SFO as well as materials related to the history and development of the SFO
5. be familiar with the historical context and the development of the SFO
6. be able to critically evaluate the relationship of the historical events to the

development of the Rules of the Order

Indicative Module Content:

This module seeks to lead students towards a deeper understanding of the *distinctions* among the monastic, apostolic, and evangelical models of religious life as Franciscan. It presents the essential elements of the Franciscan Evangelical Life as expressed today. The second part begins with a brief history of the Order of Penitents until the Leonine Rule of 1883. There will be an examination of the relationship between the Papacy and the Order from the late nineteenth century until the Pauline Rule of 1978. An in depth look at the Pauline Rule–The Rule process: genesis and development will be taken with an examination and analysis of how the SFO is adapting to the transformation from the Third Order of St. Francis (TOSF) to SFO.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through lectures and group discussions. Lectures, class discussion, Power Point presentations and group work. Students will be given guidance concerning the latest documentation concerning the SFO from the International Council of the Order, CIOFS.

Assessment:

Evangelical Life:

This component will be assessed through a reading and critical evaluation of one of the five essential elements of the Franciscan Evangelical Life and provide a 2,500 word assignment with suitable bibliography.

SFO:

- This component will be assessed through a reading and critical evaluation of topics related to the SFO and provide a 2,500 word assignment with suitable bibliography.

Or

- Prepare a presentation for either a meeting of the SFO formators or as an introduction to the SFO for your community.

Illustrative Bibliography

- Armstrong, R.J., Hellman, J.A. and Short, W., eds. (1999) *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents Vol. I, The Saint* London: NCP
- Downing, F.T., Pearce, P. International and Yates, P. (2007) *Franciscan Reflections on the Rules* Franciscan Study Centre
- Stewart, R. (1991) *De Illis qui Faciunt Penitentiam: The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order: Origin, Development, Interpretation* Istituto Storico dei Cappuccini

Journals/DVDs/Documents

- Chinnici, J., OFM, et al. (2001) *The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, WTU Symposium* Franciscan Institute
- "The Prophetic Heart: The Evangelical Form of Religious Life in the Contemporary United States", *The Cord* 44 (1994)
- National Council GB SFO (2003) *Handbook of the Secular Franciscan Order Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* Bedford: Maple Print (Private circulation)

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