

Module Title:	Franciscan History and the Marian Tradition
Module Code:	447 FHMT
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Chris Shorrocks, OFM D. Th.

Module Aims:

This module aims first, to explain what is meant by the Franciscan “Order of Penance” in order to provide students with an understanding of the historical context in which the Franciscan movement, first, second and third orders, emerged. Secondly, to assist students in understanding and interpreting the history of the movement from Francis to Bonaventure. Finally, an important element in the early Franciscan movement is that of Mariology. Students will examine the evolution of the Franciscan theological teachings that have impacted the Church documents on Mary and will become knowledgeable about the Marian Reflection of Franciscans throughout the centuries.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should have an understanding of:

1. The historical factors which affected and shaped the Franciscan movement; the causes of tension within the early movement and evaluate their significance
2. The meaning of the term “Franciscan penitents”; the uniqueness of the Franciscan movement and the reasons for its success
3. The foundational writings of Francis and Clare as well as the primary Franciscan texts in their historical, theological, social and ecclesial contexts.
4. The influence of patristic and monastic thought concerning Mary on Franciscan thought and practice.
5. The specific Franciscan contribution of theology and devotion to Mary in the Western Church
6. How the Franciscan tradition of Mariology can be retrieved as a resource for contemporary Christian Life.

Indicative Module Content:

This module begins with an introduction to reform and heresy in the middle ages with a survey of the religious, economic, social and political background to the movement. The meaning of penance throughout history and an understanding of what is meant by Franciscan penitents is then situated in this context with an analysis of the primitive history of the Franciscan movement, focusing on Francis and Clare and their followers and their way of life. Government and administration of the first order and tensions within the movement and the influence and expansion of the Franciscan movement are also explored. The development of the Franciscan Tradition of reflection and devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus through an examination of primary texts in translation in their historical, social, theological and ecclesial contexts is done as part of a summary of this historical period.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed

- By writing a 2,500 word essay (50%)

and

- Making a group presentation or preparing a display. (50%)

Illustrative Bibliography

Bonaventure (trans. R. Karris)	<i>-Sermo 1, de Nativitate B.V.M. -Commentary on the Gospel of Luke</i>	
Brooke, R. B. (2004 ed.)	<i>Early Franciscan Government</i>	CUP
Desbonnets T. (1988)	<i>From Intuition to Institution: The Franciscans</i>	Chicago
Johnson, Elizabeth A Crossroad (1987)	<i>Marian Devotion in the Western Church, in Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation</i>	
Robson, M. (2006)	<i>The Franciscans in the Middle Ages</i>	Boydell Press
Scotus	<i>-Four Questions on Mary; -The Immaculate Conception and the Mediation of Christ in 3 Sententiarum, d.3q.1.</i>	

Journals

Laurentin, R. (1996) <i>Greyfriars</i>	"The Virgin Mary in the Works of St. Anthony of Padua"	<i>Review, 10:1</i>
Schmucki, O. (1991) <i>Greyfriars</i>	"St. Francis' Devotion Toward the Blessed Virgin Mary"	<i>Review 5:2</i>