

Module Title:	Franciscan Sources II
Module Code:	436 FFS2
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Paula Pearce, SFO, MA

Module Aims:

This module is designed to introduce students to what is meant by “*official sources*” in Franciscan Resource Documents Volumes I and II: The Saint and The Founder. Students will learn how to read these official sources with a critical approach in order to enable them to understand the historical context, nature and purpose of the official sources and to discover the image of Francis presented in these sources

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module, for each official source, students should have a knowledge and understanding of:

1. The composer, the date, the reasons for which it was composed, its audience and its significance for Franciscans at the time of composition and today.
2. How to present a Franciscan source with its literary genre and the probable influences on its nature and style.
3. The main conclusions of contemporary scholarship regarding each source
4. Read a medieval legend and recognise probable sources for the author.
5. Identify major problems encountered in coming to an understanding and appreciation of Francis.
6. Recognise bias and analyse official sources and be able to make comparisons between carefully selected extracts
7. Engage with issues relating to the value of the official sources, especially for Franciscans today.

Indicative Module Content:

Students will read the official sources for the life of St Francis and learn how to approach these critically and how to analyse medieval sources. They will examine significant factors in the historical and literary context, to select relevant information about the author, the purpose for which the source was commissioned and the group for whom it was

composed. Particular attention is given to the evaluation of the significance of each official source for Franciscans at the time of composition and today. The module will include an introduction to the Franciscan Question.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will be taught through class lectures and will work on texts individually and in groups. They will explore the most significant findings of Franciscan scholars about the official sources.

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through two of the following:

Students may choose to

- Write a 2,500 word essay;
- Compile an equivalent portfolio of work demonstrating the student's ability to present sources appropriately, including an explanation of the context in which they were commissioned, to compare and contrast passages from texts and draw conclusions about the significance of changes, omissions and amendments for understanding and interpreting developments in the Order of Friars Minor.
- Present one official source to the group. The presentation must include a clear explanation of the historical context, the purpose of the text, the audience for which it was composed and an evaluation of the significance of the image of Francis presented in the text for Franciscan at the time of composition and today.

Illustrative Bibliography

Armstrong, Hellman, Short, eds. (1999–2000)	<i>Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol 1 The Saint; Vol 2 The Founder.</i>	London, NCP
Dalarun, J. (2002)	<i>The Misadventure of Francis of Assisi</i>	Franciscan Institute Press
Esser, C. (1970)	<i>Origins of the Franciscan Order</i>	Franciscan Herald Press

Journals

Grau, E. (1989),

"Thomas of Celano: Life and Work"
Greyfriars Review 8:2

Miskuly, J. (1989)

"Julian of Speyer: Life of St Francis"
Franciscan Studies 49