

Module Title:	Franciscan Spiritual Theology
Module Code:	419 FSPT
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	10
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 100 hours
Teaching Hours:	20 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.

Module Aims:

In this module an understanding will be explored of what is meant by the term 'spiritual', especially in the theological significance of Franciscan spirituality.

An examination will be made on how spirituality and theology inform each other and students will gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between theory and practice in Franciscan spirituality, learning key features in a theological approach to Franciscan Spirituality

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should

1. be able to recognise the various approaches to spirituality in the writings of Francis of Assisi and other Franciscans
2. have an understanding of the important texts in Franciscan spirituality and theology
3. have gained a knowledge of the various methods and styles of interpretation in relation to Franciscan spirituality and theology
4. be able to apply methods of theological interpretation to Franciscan texts
5. have a knowledge of important Franciscan theological writings today
6. to form independent opinions about the literary nature of the Franciscan Spiritual Theology and use evidence appropriately to support conclusions.
7. To present such materials, organised into a coherent argument, in written and/or oral format with references and bibliography where necessary.

Indicative Module Content:

This module is an examination of the theological dimension of Franciscan Spirituality. As such it explores the spirituality of Francis of Assisi and other Franciscans through an examination of their writings and a theological interpretation of them. The characteristics that emerge from this study will be used as a basis for discerning how Franciscan Spirituality is related to theology and how theology informs Franciscan Spirituality. The

module will examine, inter alia, the Rule and Testament of St. Francis, the Itinerarium Mentis in Deum of Bonaventure, and the Primacy of the Will in Duns Scotus. The module will give special attention to recent documents of the Franciscan Order such as Medellin, The State of the Order Today, With Clarity and Audacity to determine the impact that a Franciscan theology of spirituality makes on contemporary Church and world.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Lectures, tutorials and reading of assigned texts.

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through a 2,500 word essay

Illustrative Bibliography

Bonaventure trs. E. Cousins (1978)	The Soul’s Journey into God, The Tree of Life, The Life of St. Francis	Paulist Press
Carpenter, Charles (1999)	Theology as the Road to Holiness in St. Bonaventure, Theological Inquiries	Paulist Press
Cunningham, Lawrence S. (2004)	Francis of Assisi: Performing the Gospel Life	Wm B Eerdmans
House, Adrian (2001)	Francis of Assisi	Paulist Press
Johnson, Timothy (2001)	The Soul in Ascent: Bonaventure on Poverty, Prayer, and Union with God	Franciscan Press
Wolf, Kenneth Baxter (2003)	The Poverty of Riches: St. Francis of Assisi Reconsidered	OUP

Journals/Publications

General Chapter Documents, (2006)	With Clarity and Audacity	Rome
Rome, (2005)	The Flavour of the Word: The Intellectual Vocation of the Franciscan Today	