

Module Title:	Rule and Life: Friars/TOR; Theology of Consecrated Life
Module Code:	450 FRCL
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Philippe Yates, OFM, JCD; Kathleen Copp, OSF, M.Ed, M.Th

Module Aims:

Rule Module (Section One): The first section is taught in separate parallel modules one for Friars and one for TOR.

Friars: The module analyses the 1223 Rule of the Order of Friars Minor and gives the students the tools to be able to interpret it for, and live it in, a modern context.

TOR: An in-depth look at the Rule and Way of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of 1982 with a view to identifying the key TOR values and understand the relationship of the foundational TOR value of penance/conversion to these values

Section Two (combined module): Theology of Consecrated Life

- To give the student an understanding of the scriptural basis of the consecrated life
- To investigate the image of the religious life presented in the documents of the Second Vatican Council
- To investigate the image of the religious life presented in the 1997 post-synodal exhortation *Vita Consecrata* and the 2002 instruction *Starting Afresh from Christ*

Learning Outcomes:

Rules: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding:

1. of the different historical manners of interpreting the Rule of the Friars Minor including modern ways of interpreting the Rule of the Friars Minor
2. of the importance of history and lived experience for the current composition of the modern TOR Rule, its Four Values, structure and essential elements of the 1982 TOR Rule

Consecrated Life: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding:

1. of the biblical roots and the current teaching of the magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the consecrated life;
2. an understanding of and ability to evaluate new forms of the consecrated life in the contemporary church;

3. an ability to reflect on their own experience of the consecrated life, whether as members of an institute or as an outside observer.
4. This module will promote self-critical awareness of the presuppositions of the consecrated life and enable the student critically to evaluate its importance in the Church today.
5. In this module students will demonstrate empathetic engagement with the basis of a way of life that may be familiar or unfamiliar, depending upon the student.

Indicative Module Content:

Rules:

Friars: The module considers the 12 chapters of the Rule in turn, analysing them:

- According to the meaning of the words in canonical tradition (the method of the Four Masters)
- According to the Method of the “zealous brothers” (i.e. reflecting on stories from the life of St. Francis relevant to the provisions of the chapter)
- To draw out a modern way of living the Franciscan Rule

TOR:

- An intensive look at the Rule of 1982, the historical context, the processes involved in its composition and approval, its commentaries both contemporary to its development and current to its relevance in today's world.
- An analysis and application of the Rule of 1982 to each TOR congregation's lived experience today, and the potential for the future.

Consecrated Life

This section of the module begins with an exposition of the theory of Dermot Cox OFM on the scriptural origins of the consecrated life. It examines the models of the consecrated life contained in the documents of Second Vatican Council and looks at developments since the Second Vatican Council reflected in *Vita Consecrata* and *Starting Afresh from Christ*. The module ends by looking at emerging forms of consecrated life encouraged by can. 605 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will be taught by class lectures; PowerPoint, Invited speakers and will be expected to read additional materials as specifically directed or recommended; taught a critical and analytic approach to resources and given the opportunity for group work and discussion

Assessment:

The Rules:

- An essay of 2,500 words or
- presentation of the key elements of the Rule equivalent of 2,500 words. The student will be expected to apply his or her personal lived experience of the Rule with new insights gained.

Consecrated Life:

- This section will be assessed by a 2,500 word essay
- or an equivalent presentation on one of the topics relating to their specific religious charism and the current understanding of consecrated life.

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
Blastic M. (2008)	<i>A Study of the Rule of 1223:History, Exegesis and Reflection.</i>	Privately Published
Carney, M., Godet–Calogeras, J. F., Kush, S. M., eds., (–2008)	<i>History of the Third Order Regular Rule: A Source Book,</i>	Franciscan Institute
Casey, Maria (2001)	<i>Breaking from the Bud. New Forms Srs. St. of Consecrated Life.</i>	Sydney: Joseph
Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (2001)	<i>Instruction. Starting Afresh from Christ: A Renewed Commitment to Consecrated Life in the Third Millenium.</i>	Rome, Vatican
John Paul II Vatican	<i>Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. Vita consecrata.</i>	Rome,
Paolazzi C. (2006)	<i>Studi sugli “Scritti” di Frate Franciesco.</i>	Rome: Editiones Collegii s. Bonaventurae Claras Aquas
(1982, 1997)	<i>The Rule and Life of the Brothers The Rule and Life of the Brothersand Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis and Commentary</i>	Valley Press

Journals

Elizondo F. (1960)

"Pontificiae interpretationes regulae
Franciscane usque ad annum 1517."
Laurentianum 1

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"The Definitive Rule of the Friars Minor:
An in-depth Study in the Light of Recent Research",
Round Table of Franciscan Research (1969)