

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>St Francis and Creative Imagination</b>
<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>442 FCRI</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Credit Rating:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Student Learning Time: 200 hours</b>
<b>Teaching Hours:</b>	<b>40 hours</b>
<b>Academic Responsibility:</b>	<b>Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.</b>

### **Module Aims:**

To introduce students to different ways of imaging St. Francis by exploring the life through and impact of St. Francis on musicians, artist and poets. To show the continued influence of Francis on the arts and to encourage students to use their own creative imagination

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this module students will be expected to

1. have a knowledge of the important pictorial representations of St. Francis and critically review and analyse creative and imaginative depictions of St. Francis
2. have a knowledge of the possible influence of Provençal Lyric poetry on the ideals of St. Francis
3. understand the influence of St. Francis and the arts visual, audial, and cinematographic and the continuing impact St. Francis and his ideals have on creative and imaginative culture
4. understand various visual art forms and how they view St. Francis
5. make connections between visual and audio depictions of St. Francis and comment on them critically

### **Indicative Module Content:**

This module aims to explore the life of St. Francis through art, poetry, music and film and examine and explore the impact of the creative imagination of the Medieval Period on some of his ideals. Students will study aspects of Medieval Lyric poetry, most especially the Troubadour tradition through Provençal lyric texts and the extant music of some of the great Troubadours. The module will then examine how this impacted on St. Francis's ideals and vision. The module will also consider how Francis has been represented in art, especially the work of early artist such as Giotto, Francisco de Zuraban's *St. Francis in Meditation*; El Greco, *St. Francis Praying* and *St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata*, *The Ecstasy of St. Francis*; Alosono Cano's, *San Francesco*; Fran Angelico, *The Meeting of St.*

*Francis and St. Dominic.* Other contemporary depictions of Francis will also be explored. How Francis is depicted in poetry will also be examined through poems such as Gall Callaway's *St. Francis and the Pig*; Séamus Heaney's *St. Francis and The Birds*; Longfellow's, *The Sermon of St. Francis* and some more contemporary poems such as Séamus Mulholland's *Francis and the Leper; Scented Kerchiefs; In the Assisi Square*. Presentations of Francis in film will include examining and reflecting on *Br. Sun and Sr. Moon; Francesco; St. Francis*. Attention will also be paid to the Chivalric ideals as encapsulated in *Chansons de Gesste* and the *Song of Roland* and some attention will be paid to contemporary art forms such as the Marvel comic depiction of the story of St. Francis.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

This module will be taught through lectures, Power Point Presentation, communications media, DVD, video, portrait viewing, film and private study.

### **Assessment:**

This module will be assessed by two of the following

1. A comparative review of Zeferelli's *Br. Sun, Sr. Moon* and Cavalla's *Francesco* and offer a comparative study of 2,500 words or an analysis and comparison of the presentation of St. Francis in Callaway, Longfellow and Heany.
2. Students may write a 2,500 word essay possible influences of Provençal Lyric Poetry and the Chivalric Novellas on the ideals of St. Francis
3. Students may also offer a presentation on an aspect of Francis and the creative imagination (equivalent 2500 words), and
4. a detailed book creative report (2,500 word)
5. or a presentation of paintings of St. Francis (2,500 word)

### **Illustrative Bibliography**

Eyerdam, P. J., (2003)	<i>Using Internet Primary Sources to Teach Critical Thinking Skills in Visual Arts</i>	Libraries Unlimited, London
Heaney, S., (2001)	<i>Collected Poems</i>	Faber, London
Maginnis H. B. J, (1997)	<i>Painting in the Age of Giotto: A Historical Re-evaluation</i>	Penn State Press

Merrifield, M., P., (2003) *The Art of Fresco Painting in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* Courier Dover Publications

Paterson, L. (1998) *The World of the Troubadours, Occitain Society 1100-1300* Cambridge University Press

### **Journals**

Mulholland S.(1997) "St. Francis and The Troubadours", *The Tau, Vol. 3*

(1996)\_\_\_\_\_ "St. Francis and the Themes of Medieval Literature", *The Cord*

(1984)\_\_\_\_\_ 'St. Francis As Dramatist", *The Cord*

### **Films, Websites, Other**

Br. Sun, Sr. Moon' [Film] Directed by Franco Zefferelli

Francesco' [Film] Directed by Lilia Cavalla

[www.trobar.org/troubadours](http://www.trobar.org/troubadours)