Course Purpose

This course will examine one of the most prominent, notorious, talented, and despised groups in the modern world – the Jesuits. In the past they have been portrayed as the “light cavalry of the papacy.” In the present day some see them as representing a progressive attitude to theology and the Church. We will seek to clarify the historical and cultural significance of the Society of Jesus, the largest religious order in the Catholic Church. This will include study of their founder, Ignatius of Loyola and their place in the world of Renaissance and Reformation learning and culture, the works of the Jesuits in Asia and Latin America during the period of European expansion in the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, the roles played by the Jesuits during the Enlightenment and French Revolution, the suppression of the Society of Jesus in the eighteenth century, the place of the Society in the nineteenth century, particularly the reaction to Liberalism in Western society, and the role of the Society of Jesus in the aggiornamento of the Catholic Church called for by the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). Students will also become aware that the Jesuits have been an international organization from their foundation. Therefore, the history of the Jesuits intersects with the broader history of Europe, Asia, Latin America, and North America from the sixteenth century to the present.

This course fulfills requirements in the core for divisions II and S and is designated as a Catholic Studies Course.

Course Requirements

Required Texts:

N.B. Please do assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned. I encourage you to take notes on the readings themselves for reference later.


Reserve Readings:


Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate actively and respectfully in all discussion. The course is organized with both lectures and discussions of primary source materials as well as occasional hand-outs from the instructor. On the days set aside for discussion, be prepared to speak on the significance of the primary source documents.

There is one event outside of class-time attendance which is mandatory for this course. On Monday, January 31 at 12:15, Most Rev. George Murry, SJ, Bishop of Youngstown, will speak in the LSC Conference Room on “The Legacy of Archbishop John Carroll and the Mission of the University Today.”

Writing Assignments

There are two four-page papers required for this course. Each of them is an analysis of primary source documents from Jesuit history. Students are to analyze the primary sources in terms of their relationship to broader cultural and religious forces. A Central question for both essays is this: How do the thought and activities of the Jesuits, in a given place and time, conform to or differ from conventional European and Catholic views? The primary sources assigned in the syllabus will be the focus of the papers.

The first of these papers is to focus on Ignatius of Loyola, the early Society of Jesus, and its ministries as examined in the syllabus through February 18. It is due on February 21. The Second paper should address the works of the Jesuit outside of Europe in their missions in Asia or Latin America. It is due on March 21.
Grading:

The course grade will be determined by a mid-term examination (30%), two 4 page papers that analyze primary source documents (15% each), a final examination (30%), and class participation (10%). The Final Examination is scheduled for Monday, May 9 at 8:00a.m. No exceptions will be made for the dates of exams.

For Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to receive accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to learning. Please contact the SSD coordinator at (216) 397-4967 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter which, when presented to instructors, will help them know best how to assist you. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register at your earliest convenience.

Schedule of Lectures and Topics

Part One: Ignatius of Loyola and the Founding of the Jesuits

1/19: “What must I do to enter the Kingdom of God?”: Ministry and Spirituality in Christian History I.

1/21: No Class. Class attendance fulfilled by attendance at Bishop Murry lecture on 1/31 at noon, LSC Conference Room.

1/24: Ministry and Spirituality in Christian History II

1/26: The Cultural Context of 16th Century Europe: The Renaissance
The Classical Tradition: Quintilian and Cicero (Handout)

Wright, Introduction.

1/31: Ignatius of Loyola. Early Life and Conversion.
Wright, 13-27;
Donnelly, pp. 1-8;
Burk and Burke-Sullivan, xvii-xxxi, 3-9.
2/2: “Finding God in All Things.” The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius I. Donnelly, pp. 8-16; Burke and Burke-Sullivan, xxxi-xliv.

2/4: The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius II.
Donnelly, 166-179

2/7: “Friends in the Lord”: the First Jesuits at the University of Paris and the Foundation of the Society of Jesus.

Loyola, The Formula of the Institute.

Part Two: The Jesuits and Early Modern Catholicism

2/11: The Jesuits and the Church in the Age of the Council of Trent. “Storm Troopers of the Papacy”?
Wright, 27-63

2/14: Jesuits as Ministers of the Word. Preaching and Spiritual Direction.
Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 25-41.

2/16: Jesuits and Education: the Colleges.
Donnelly, Chapter 2

2/18: Jesuits and the Marginalized in Europe. Rural Missions, Women, and Jews.

2/21: Confronting the Protestant Reformation in Germany and England.
Donnelly, pp. 131-155 and 251-256.

FIRST PAPER DUE.

2/25: Political and Cultural Conflict in France of the Ancien Regime. Casuistry and Jansenism.
Wright, 133-171
Donnelly, pp. 208-221 and 241-251.
Pascal, Provincial Letters, Letters V and IX (Hand-out)

2/28: “There is no one like the Jesuits for doing pirouettes.” The Jesuits and the Arts in Early Modern Europe.
Bailey, Gauvin Alexander. “‘Le style jesuite n’existe pas’: Jesuit

3/2: Mid-Term Examination on Material through 2/23

Wright, 65-132
Donnelly, pp. 64-88; 
Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 43-47.

3/5-3/13: *Spring Break*

3/14: Jesuits and Inculturation in China and India. Matteo Ricci, and Roberto de Nobili. 
Donnelly, pp. 88-111; 
Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 48-52.

3/16: Jesuit Missions in the Americas. The “Paraguay Reductions.”
Donnelly, pp. 111-130; 
Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 53-60

Wright, 173-218

3/21: The Suppression of the Society. SECOND PAPER DUE.

**Part Three: The Challenge of the Modern World**

3/23: The French Revolution and European Religion

3/25: Europe of the Nineteenth Century.

Wright, 219-255


4/1: The Papacy in the Nineteenth Century

Hopkins poems in Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 104-110.

4/8: The Jesuits in the United States: Growth

Wright, 257-282
Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 67-73.


Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 121-128.

4/18: A Jesuit Voice


4/22: Good Friday. No Class

4/25: Easter Monday. No Class

Burke and Burke-Sullivan, pp. 74-80.


5/4: Conclusions