

SPIR 222-01 (60565): IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY AND DISCERNMENT
Spring Quarter 2023
Monday 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Dowd Hall 208

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Zoom Office Hours: In order for graduate students not to compete with my undergraduate students, I will be available to meet with you by appointment by way of Zoom. The password for these “open” your Zoom Office Hours is **Broncos**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Ignatian spirituality could be described as a set of hermeneutical instruments which can be used to better understand oneself and to navigate one’s life with greater freedom. To do this, SPIR 222 explores the historical and cultural expressions of the spiritual practices that were first developed by Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) and that have been practiced by women and men for almost five-hundred years.

Through academic inquiry, experiential learning and critical theological reflection, this course familiarizes students with the spiritual and theological insights of Ignatius’ *Spiritual Exercises*, as they have been adapted in diverse socio-cultural contexts and historical settings. Students will engage primary texts from the Sixteenth Century as well as selected contemporary commentaries. Through individual and small group practices and their unique ministerial setting, students will reflect upon and identify foundational perspectives and themes in Ignatian spirituality, critically evaluate their historical and contemporary significance and relevance, and apply these insights to contemporary questions of meaning and purpose, as well as ethical integrity and justice for individuals and communities. In doing this, the course highlights such themes as spiritual discernment, vocation, and a critical engagement of the Church—the community of *faith*, and world.

PEDAGOGY IN THIS COURSE:

SPIR 222 is a mixed/blended graduate course where some students will meet from class on campus, and others will participate in the course online. As such, some course material will be presented in an asynchronistic format, at other times class material will be engaged in synchronistic mixed setting where on campus and online students will created a blended learning community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

GPPM Objective 1.B: Students will integrate their core theological competencies in their chosen area of concentration. In light of this objective, students will develop a knowledge of the origins and development of Ignatian spirituality and an understanding of its continuing relevance within contemporary cultures and socio-political contexts.

GPPM Objective 2.A: Students will demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in their area of concentration. In this, students will be able to critically apply Ignatian spiritual insights and practices of discernment, to their own vocational aspirations and communal commitments.

GPPM Objective 3.B: Students will apply skills from their area of concentration for use within their faith community and ministerial setting. Students will experience and develop an understanding of Ignatian spiritual practices, including elements of *Spiritual Exercises* as they have been adapted in various cultural settings through the centuries.

GPPM Objective 4.A: Students will integrate the perspective of the poor and the marginalized in their reflection on theological and pastoral issues. Direct service with and reflection upon the experience of persons and communities of “need” will facilitate students’ application of central themes in Ignatian spirituality (e.g., self-knowledge, methods of prayer and reflection, discernment, freedom, conversion, and adaptation) and Jesuit humanism to real questions pertaining to personal and communal meaning and worth.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

In this course you need to acquire the following two texts:

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001) — ISBN 978-0-06-065295-1, originally published in 1946.

Dean Brackley, *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola* (New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2004). — ISBN 0-8245-2268-0

In this course you will also read:

Excerpts from *Saint Ignatius Loyola—Personal Writings: Reminiscences, Spiritual Diary, Selected Letters* including the text of *The Spiritual Exercises*, Translated with Introduction and notes by Joseph A. Munitiz and Philip Endean, (London: Penguin Classics, 2004) — ISBN 0-140-43385-6. You will be provided with a .pdf document of this material on our *CAMINO* Course site.

Articles will also be selected from George W. Traub, SJ, *An Ignatian Spirituality Reader: Contemporary Writings on Ignatius Loyola, the Spiritual Exercises, Discernment and More* (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2008) — ISBN 10: 0-8294-2723-6. These articles will also be provided for you as .pdf documents on *CAMINO*.

Finally, these texts may be supplemented by further materials that have been selected and prepared by the instructor that will be made accessible by way of *CAMINO*.

Each student also needs to have access to a Bible. There are various translations of the scriptures; however, the *NRSV*, that is, the *New Revised Standard Version*, is highly recommended. On *CAMINO* you have also been provided with a very helpful online Biblical resource.

Important to Note:

Camino Course Management System: Students enrolled in the course are also enrolled in *Camino*. Given the mix of synchronistic and asynchronistic learning modalities, students will need to regularly consult *Camino* for assignments, announcements, supplementary course material, readings, and so forth. *Camino* is an essential “virtual” meeting place for all of us!