Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry (Hybrid)
SPGR 6740 6815 – Lowenstein (Lincoln Ctr)
January 11-15, 2016 – 10AM-4:30PM

Francis X. McAloon, S.J., Ph.D.
Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education
Fordham University -- Keating Hall #303
441 East Fordham Road
Bronx NY 10458
Office: (718) 817-4812
fmcaloon@fordham.edu
Available by appointment

Course Description
Engaging in ministry within an Ignatian spirituality context involves pursuing a Christian vision of the world rooted in the experience and writings of the sixteenth-century Basque saint, Ignatius of Loyola. In this hybrid course, we (1) examine the life of Ignatius against the background of his socio-historical context, (2) engage in a close, critical reading of his texts, and (3) survey various contemporary approaches to the appropriation of his spiritual tradition, with an emphasis upon ministerial practices. We examine especially two important primary sources, his Autobiography, dictated to a fellow Jesuit near the end of his life, and his Spiritual Exercises, a remarkable and influential handbook for personal and spiritual renewal. We also read excerpts from his Spiritual Journal, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and some of his Letters.

Please note: students taking this course should not register for a Session A online course, with the single exception of my course entitled “Methods in Christian Spirituality,” which is a unique online course that runs through both Session A and B in spring semester 2016. Students registered for both “Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry” and “Methods in Christian Spirituality” will follow the former syllabus through January 15, 2016, after which they switch into the course requirements for “Methods in Christian Spirituality.” In other words, students in the Methods course must submit their final research papers later in the semester, during Session B. This option is only available to students writing a research paper for both courses.

Students registered for “Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry” are welcome to register for an online B session course at GSRRE.

Student Learning Goals
3. Students will articulate the relationship between the Christian tradition and their professional practice and spiritual development.
4. Students will articulate a well rounded knowledge and critical appropriation of Jesuit Spirituality and the Catholic Intellectual tradition.

Evaluation
➢ 20% postings
➢ 40% Final paper or project
➢ 40% Class participation
Grading

With all written submissions (including the final),

- **“A” paper**: submitted by the due-date and superior in content, composition, style, and the mechanics of American academic English. Submission evinces an advanced engagement with and integration of course materials.
- **“B” paper**: submitted by the due-date and excellent to above average in content, composition, style, and the mechanics of American academic English. Submission evinces a high-level of engagement with and integration of course materials. An otherwise superior submission receives a “B” when it is turned in past its due-date.
- **“C” paper**: submitted on time or past due and one (or more) aspects of its content, composition, style and mechanics of American academic English do not meet graduate-level standards. Submission evinces adequate engagement with and integration of course materials.
- Generally speaking, graduate programs eschew grades of “D” or “F.” At the MA and DMin level, students are held to a higher standard than undergraduates. A failing grade, typically, is earned when a student does not complete at least 70% of course requirements with a passing grade.
- Students with learning disabilities must follow university protocols for extensions, etc.

Course Requirements

- Complete required readings as assigned. During the intensive week of daily classes, it is acknowledged that students may need to skim through some of the required readings, with the understanding that either before or after the week of classes, students will complete unfinished reading.
- Post all written assignments as assigned.
- Attend and actively participate in all class sessions. [Absence policy: given the intensive nature of a hybrid course, students must attend all class sessions Monday through Friday. An absence for part of one day will negatively affect one’s final grade. Students absent for a full day of class should withdraw from the course.]
- Collaborate in small groups to discuss course materials – both online and in class.
- Final paper or project on a topic in Ignatian Spirituality (the equivalent of 15-20 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins, standard academic English grammar, etc., bibliography included). Due **February 29, 2016**:
  - **Research Paper**: In consultation with and approval of the professor, choose a research project on some aspect of Ignatian spirituality. Confer by email with the professor on your research topic during the weeks following class (January 2016). **[SLG 3&4]** Please Note: with the permission of the professor, students also registered for 2016 spring semester online “Methods in Christian Spirituality” may write one research paper for both courses. For further details, see the note at the beginning of this syllabus.
  - **Pastoral Project**: In consultation with and approval of the professor, choose a pastoral project and format in which you explore and explain both the theory and practice of Ignatian spirituality. This consultation should occur during the month of January 2016. Whatever delivery method you select, e.g.,
lecture, preaching, or other media, you **must** include ample footnoting of your material, referencing primary and secondary resources in Ignatian spirituality – these are for your professor, not your audience. Depending on your medium, the length of your project is equivalent to 15-20 typewritten pages. [SLG 3&4] *(n.b., the “Pastoral Project” option is not available to students also registered for Methods in Christian Spirituality.)*

Some possible projects:

- Prepare one or two lectures (totaling 15-20 pages) on Ignatian spirituality for presentation to a ministerial peer group, e.g., diocesan clergy gathering (priests and/or permanent deacons), in-service day for chaplains (hospital, prison, college, or high school), parish leadership team, or the like. For the purposes of this project, you will assume that your intended audience is a group of maturing Christians who actively live their faith (daily prayer, faith community participation, regular spiritual direction, etc.) and who would likely qualify as “second week” Christians according to Ignatius’ rules for the discernment of spirits ... in other words, not introductory lecture(s).

  Your intended audience may be new to Ignatian spirituality, but your listeners enjoy a well developed sense of spirituality, self-knowledge, and religious practice. Please include footnotes and bibliography with the lecture(s) – even though you wouldn’t deliver these citations when you lecture.

- Create a PowerPoint, YouTube video, or website on Ignatian spirituality, covering such topics as the Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola, the examen prayer, Ignatian contemplation, the Spiritual Exercises, the rules for the discernment of spirits, the election (discerning God's will), and the like.

- Create your own syllabus for a course in Ignatian spirituality that you intend to teach at a seminary or institute for the education of lay ecclesial ministers.

- Propose you own project!

**Required Texts**


Recommended Texts
(For personal enrichment; not required for this course.)


Recommended Web Resources

- http://www.jesuit.org/ignatian-spirituality/
- http://www.luc.edu/jesuit/sheldrake.shtml
- http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html
- http://sfts.edu/faculty/liebert/ignatian/ignatian_links.asp
Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Pre-Class Reading

Appreciating that many students taking this course are also taking Dr. Beaudoin’s course during the first week of January 2016, students are encouraged to complete the following readings sometime during November-December 2015 or the weekend of January 9-10.

• **Read** Gallagher’s *The Examen Prayer* in its entirety and practice the prayer form.
  - As you read this text, please integrate this prayer practice into your daily prayer. It may take a little getting used to, but Gallagher does a good job of introducing it. I encourage you to keep a sort of examen prayer journal, so that when we meet for our first class, you will have recollection of your practice with the prayer form. Please give the examen at least one week try before our first class. Our discussion in class will not concern the CONTENT of your examen, which is confidential, but with your EXPERIENCE of the examen prayer practice itself. Please come to class with your questions, comments, and critiques. I will not read your journal and it is not a part of your semester grade.

  • **Recommended reading** in *The Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, Ron Hansen’s essay entitled “The Pilgrim: Saint Ignatius of Loyola,” (pp. 24-44).

Monday, January 11, 2016 – Introduction to Ignatius of Loyola and the Examen


• Based on this reading, **post** to Blackboard your responses to each of the following questions:
  1. what did you find inspiring, enlightening, or attractive?
  2. What did you find troubling, unattractive, or objectionable?
  3. What applications does Ignatius’ spirituality have in our lives today? [SLG 3&4]

• **Read** in Lonsdale’s *EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR*, chapters 1, 2, & 3 (pages 36-88). Based on your reading of these pages, please come to class with your questions, comments, and critiques of Lonsdale’s presentation.

• **Recommended reading**: in Ganss, “General Introduction” (pages. 10-63).

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – Ignatian Prayer

• **Read** in Lonsdale, *EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR*, pages 110-125, 142-154. Sometime between Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, please experiment with praying the Ignatian contemplation on the Nativity (pages. 112-113).

• **Read** in Traub, *AN IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY READER*, the sections entitled “Finding God in All Things” and “Prayer” (pp. 48-113).

• Come to class prepared to critically engage the material read. Students take turns leading the discussion on articles. Students take turns leading the discussion on articles.
Wednesday, January 13, 2016 – The Spiritual Exercises: Background and Weeks 1-2

- **Read** in Ganss, *IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA*, pages 113-160, selections from The Spiritual Exercises.
- **Read** in Lonsdale, *EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR*, pages 126-141.
- Come to class prepared to critically engage the material read. Students take turns leading the discussion on articles.

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – The Spiritual Exercises: Weeks 3-4; Discernment of Spirits

- Lonsdale, *EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR*, pages 89-109.
- Traub, *AN IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY READER*, pages 152-222.
- Come to class prepared to critically engage the material read. Students take turns leading the discussion on articles. Students take turns leading the discussion on articles.

Friday, January 15, 2016 – Discernment of God’s Will

- Traub, *AN IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY READER*, pages 4-17, 224-269.
- TBA

January 16-31, 2016, students communicate by email with the professor to propose, develop, and commit to a definitive final research paper or project topic.

February 15, 2016, deadline for students to post on blackboard a draft outline of their paper/project.

February 22, 2016, deadline for students to post a draft of the introduction (or its equivalent) to their paper/project.

February 29, 2016, deadline for students to post on blackboard the final version of their paper/project.

November 11, 2015
Draft subject to change before January 11, 2016