THE JESUIT ENTERPRISES, 1540-1773

John W. O’Malley

I. Course Description:

The Jesuits were involved in virtually every facet of early modern culture almost around the globe, and they left behind an extensive paper trail, much of it relatively unexamined. In the past fifteen years scholarship on them before their suppression in 1773 by Pope Clement XIV has exploded, inaugurating a trend described as “the new historiography.” In that historiography the Jesuits have been freed from the old stereotypes of agents of the Counter Reformation and agents of Catholic Reform and moved into more expansive categories. The seminar will situate Jesuits in the traditional mode as agents of the Counter Reformation, of course, but more so in the new approaches that see them as cultural agents on a massive scale in a variety of enterprises. The Jesuits were, for instance, theologians, polemists, political theorists, astronomers, dramatists, pharmacists, architects, engineers of city fortifications, governors of Amerindian settlements, cartographers, musicians, and, above all, missionaries and schoolmasters. They were, moreover, active in virtually every country of Europe and Latin America, in many countries of Asia, and even in a few in Africa. They are thus an ideal subject for a seminar because participants have a wide range of areas of research to choose from.

II. Requirements and procedures:

As mentioned, the course is a seminar. It requires, therefore, active participation, which will take different forms for graduate and undergraduate students. Limited to 20 students. For undergraduates some background in early modern history is a prerequisite. The class sessions will consist in a certain amount of lecture but also discussion of primary and secondary sources and in students’ presentations of them.

For graduate students:
1. Active participation in class discussion.
2. A book review of some 800 to 100 wds, as if submitted to a professional journal in your field of specialization. I will provide further details. Due early
4. A final research paper, another “review of literature” building on the previous two assignments, due at the end of the course.
For undergraduates:
1. Active participation in class discussion.
2. Weekly paper of 150 words on the readings assigned for the class. Indicate on paper the number of words used.
3. Presentations in class of articles pertinent to the topic of the day. (Number of presentations will depend on number of students enrolled.)
4. Final written assignment, to be determined in consultation with me.

GEORGETOWN RESOURCES. We are fortunate in that the Woodstock Library and the Special Collections of Lauinger Library have rich holdings of rare books pertaining to the Society of Jesus, and the Woodstock Library possesses a wonderful collection of supporting literature. These resources, plus the library of CUA and the Library of Congress, make Georgetown an almost ideal place to pursue research on Jesuit-related topics.

III. Course goals:
Presupposition: The Jesuits are worth learning about in themselves because of their impact on religion and culture especially in the West but also worldwide. They provide, moreover, a window into almost every aspect of early modern history, and for that reason they are worth studying by students who do not have an interest in them as such.

Graduate students: besides opening for students the basic landscape of Jesuit history and early modern religion, the course is meant to provide introductions to various facets of those histories that might be pursued in a dissertation. The exercises in book review and review of literature are meant to train students for tasks they will certainly later be called upon to perform as professionals.

For undergraduates: also for them the course is aimed at opening the basic landscape to enable them to situation themselves and their culture in a broader perspective. It also wants to excite their imagination with examples of the remarkable ingenuity of the Jesuits as they went about their “enterprises.” The exercises with primary texts are meant to sharpen students’ critical skills and ability to interpret documents, whether from the past or from the present.

IV. TEXTS:
1. O’Malley, John W., The First Jesuits, paperback, bookstore. Please buy it because valuable throughout the course.
2. Bangert, William V., A History of the Society of Jesus. Unfortunately, available only in hard cover, bookstore. Maybe you could share it with another student. Again, it is a book that will be valuable.
throughout the course.

3. Ignatius of Loyola, The Spiritual Exercises, paperback, bookstore. There are plenty of copies floating around campus, which you can maybe borrow or buy. We need it for only one course, but it is too long for Everything else will be on Blackboard or be otherwise provided.

V. Calendar


(January 16: Holiday)

2. January 23. THEIR PLAN OF LIFE AND ITS EXPANSION
   B. Discuss: TEXT “Formula” and “The Rule of St Francis”
   C. Discuss: “Five Missions of the Jesuit Charism” (Blackboard)
   Question for the weekly paper: compare and contrast Formula and Francis

3. January 30. HOW THEY WERE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES
   A. Discuss: The First Jesuits, pp. 200 to end.
   B. Discuss TEXT:
      1. Jesuit (selections) and Carmelite Constitutions
      2. Decrees of First General Congregation
   C. Student presentation: “Governance in the Society of Jesus, 1540-1773: Its Methods, Critics, and Legacy Today”
   Question: compare and contrast Jesuit and Carmelite Constitutions

4. February 6. THEIR BASIC SPIRITUAL PROGRAM
   A. Discuss: First Jesuits, pp. 37-50, 127-133
   B. Discuss: TEXT, Spiritual Exercises
   C. Discuss: TEXT, Directory to the Spiritual Exercises, 1599
   D. Student presentation: “Early Jesuit Spirituality: Spain and Italy”
   Question: compare and contrast Exercises and Directory

5. February 13: WHY AND HOW THEY ENGAGED IN EDUCATION
   A. Discuss: 1. O’Malley, “Mastering the Art of Jesuit Education”
      2. Hufton, “Funding a Jesuit College”
4. Loach, “Revolutionary Pedagogues?”

B. Discuss: Text, Ratio Studiorum (Plan of Studies) 1599

C. Student presentations

   Question: How does the Ratio stack up in light of the four articles we have read?

(February 20: holiday)

   (Guest Professor: Kathryn M. Olesko, Georgetown University)
   A. Discuss: Harris, “Confession Building, Long-Distance Networks, And the Organization of Jesuit Science”
   B. Discuss: Harris, “Jesuit Scientific Activity in the Overseas Missions, 1540-1773”
   C. Discuss: Wallace, “Jesuit Influences on Galileo’s Science” (Blackboard)
   D. Student presentation: “Teaching Mathematics in Jesuit Schools: Programs, Course Content, and Classroom Practices”

   Question: What, if anything, was special about the Jesuits’ relationship to natural philosophy (“science”)?

7. March 12: EXPANSION, EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA
   A, Discuss: Bangert, History, pp. 46-175.
   B. Discuss: TEXT, Ruiz de Montoya, Spiritual Conquest (selection)
   C. Discuss:
      1. Gutiérrez and Viñuales, “Artistic and Architectural Legacy”
   D. Student presentation: Martínez-Serna, “Procurators and Atlantic Network”

   Question: Relate Ruiz de Montoya either to Jesuit spirituality or science

8. March 19: EXPANSION, FAR EAST
   A. Discuss:
      1. Ross, “Valignano”
      2. Standaert, “Jesuit Corporate Culture as Shaped by the Chinese”
   B. Discuss: TEXT, “Letters from the Mogul Court”
   C. Student presentation:
      1. Summers, “The Jesuits in Manila”
2. Colombo, “From Fez to Heaven”
Question: What features of Jesuit methods and mind-set on their missions to do the “letters’ reveal?

9. March 26: JESUIT THEATER IN ITALY
(Guest Professor: Anthony Del Donna, Georgetown University)
A. Discuss: 1. Oldani and Yanitelli, “Jesuit Theater in Italy”
   2. Zanlonghi, “The Jesuit Stage in Milan”
   3. Filippi, “The Orator’s Performance”
B. Student presentation; Zampelli, “Jesuits and Theater (from the Underside)”
Question: TBA

10. April 2: FURTHER ARTS
A. Discuss:
   3. Rondón, “Sung Catechisms and Opera in Chile”
   5. Davidson, “The Jesuit Garden”
E. Student presentation: Rock, _Baroque Dance on the Jesuit Stage_
Question: What, if anything, is common ground in these different artistic/cultural engagements of the Jesuits?

(April 9: holiday)

11. April 16: WOMEN
A. Discuss:
   1. Fullam: “Juana, S.J., Status of Women in the Society of Jesus”
   2. Rhodes, “Join the Jesuits, See the World”
B. Discuss: TEXT. Ignatius, _Letters_ (to women)
C. Student presentation: TBA
Question: How do Ignatius’s letters to women relate to Jesuit practice as revealed in the articles we have read?

12. April 23: THE JESUITS’ ENEMIES
A. Discuss: Pavone, “Between History and Myth”
B. Discuss: TEXT, The Monita Secreta
C. Discuss; TEXT, Pascal, The Provincial Letters (selections)
Question: Relate the Monita to the sections of the Constitutions we read.

A. Discuss:
   2. Bangert, History, pp. 363-372
   3. Fumaroli, “Rigorist Hammer and Deist Anvil”
B. Discuss: TEXT, Brief of Pope Clement XIV suppressing Jesuits
C. Student presentation:
   1. Alden, “The Gang of Four in Brazil”
   2. Schafly “The Post-Suppression Society: Russia and USA”
Question: Compare Fumaroli and the papal Brief.
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sources


Polanco, Juan de, *Year by Year with the Early Jesuits (1537-1556): Selections from the Chronicon of Juan de Polanco*, trans. John Patrick Donnelly (St. Louis: The

**Monumenta Historical Societatis Jesu**
About 155 volumes of documents, principally correspondence, of the first fifty years of the Society of Jesus, critical editions in the original languages (for the most part, Latin, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese).

**Research Tools:**


**Secondary Works:**


SUGGESTIONS FOR SUBJECTS FOR REPORTS

ART: Gauvin Alexander Bailey, *Art on the Jesuit Missions*
Gauvin Alexander Bailey, *Between Renaissance and Baroque: Jesuit Art in Rome, 1565-1610*

DANCE: Judith Rock, *Terpsichore at Louis-le-Grand: Baroque Dance on the Jesuit Stage in Paris*

SCIENCE: Marcus Hellyer, *Catholic Physics*
Modechai Feingold, ed., *Jesuit Science and the Republic of Letters*
Florence C. Hsia, *Sojourners in a Strange Land: Jesuits and their Scientific Missions in Late Imperial China*
Volker R. Remmert, *Picturing the Scientific Revolution*

ETHICS: Robert Maryks, *Saint Cicero and the Jesuits: The Influence of the Liberal Arts on the Adoption of Moral Probabilism*

POLITICS: Robert Bireley, *The Jesuits and the Thirty Years War: Kings, Courts and Confessors*
Eric Nelson, *The Jesuits and the Monarchy: Catholic Reform and Political Authority in France (1590-1615)*
EDUCATION: Paul F. Grendler, *The University of Mantua, the Gonzagas, And the Jesuits, 1584-1630*  
Robert Emmett Curran, *A History of Georgetown University* 3 vols. (Vol. 1 or 2)

CONFRATERNITIES:  
Lance Gabriel Lazar, *Working in the Vineyard of The Lord: Jesuit Confraternities in Early Modern Italy*  

CULTURE: Paul Shore, *The Eagle and the Cross: Jesuits in Late Baroque Prague*

CIVILIZING: Jennifer D. Selwyn, *A Paradise Inhabited by Devils: The Jesuits’ Civilizing Mission in Early Modern Naples*

ENEMIES: Sabina Pavone, *The Wily Jesuits and the Monita Secreta*  
Dale K. Van Kley, *The Jansenists and the Expulsion of the Jesuits From France, 1757-1765*


PREACHING JUSTICE; Thomas F. Cohen, *Fire of Tongues: Antonio Vieira and the Missionary Church in Brazil and Portugal*


MARYLAND: Robert Emmett Curran, *The Maryland Jesuits, 1634-1833*  

AMERICAS: Nicholas P. Cushner, *Why Have You Come Here? The Jesuits And the First Evangelization of Native America* (includes
Canada and Maryland, as well as Latin America)

**SPANISH AMERICA:** Claudio Burgaleta, José de Acosta, S.J. (1540-1600)  
*lots more in Spanish!

**VIETNAM:** Peter C. Phan, *Mission and Catechesis: Alexandre de Rhodes and Inculturation in Seventeenth-Century Vietnam*

**CHINA:** Mary Lavin, *Mission to China: Matteo Ricci and the Jesuit Encounter with the East*  
George Minamiki, *The Chinese Rites Controversy: From Its Beginning to Modern Times*  
Liam Brockey, *Journey to the East: The Jesuit Mission to China, 1579-1724*  
Hsia, R. Po-chia, *A Jesuit in the Forbidden City: Matteo Ricci (1552-1610)*

**JAPAN:** Neil S. Fujita, *Japan’s Encounter with Christianity: the Catholic Mission in Pre-Modern Japan*  
Ward, Haruko Nawata, *Women Religious Leaders in Japan’s Christian Century*  
Proust, Jacaques, *Europe through the Prism of Japan*