Please Note: The Discernment course is an intensive class which includes 35+ hours of instruction over a five week period (to begin mid-October and will end late November). What is normally covered in a twelve week academic semester is covered during a five week intensive. Please plan your October and November travels accordingly in order to allow ample time for handling the course assignments and reading materials.

The Thursday and Friday prior to Thanksgiving weekend you will be required to participate in a two day retreat as a central component of this course. The retreat will be hosted at the Bologna Jesuit Retreat Center in the hills outside of town. You will be asked to pay a 50 euro fee to cover the cost of the retreat (covers the costs of meals and lodging). The overall cost of books for this course has been kept low in an effort to allow you additional funds for the retreat.

Course Description

This course explores the theory and practice of Christian discernment grounded in the life, writings and experience of Ignatius of Loyola. Students investigate the personal and apostolic applications of Ignatian discernment through readings, discussions, a retreat, case studies, short papers and a final paper of greater length.

Learning Objectives

● To introduce students to Ignatian discernment
● To explore personal and apostolic applications of Ignatian Discernment and decision making through commentaries, case studies, classroom discussions and private reflection.

Grading format

40% Class and Retreat participation
30% Occasional Short papers and Original Case Studies
30% Final Paper
Required Texts

The Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola,
Thibodeau, Mark, God’s Voice within: the Ignatian Way to Discover God’s Will

Suggested Reading


Silf, Margaret, Inner Compass: An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality

Toner, Jules J. Spirit of Light or Darkness?-A Casebook for Studying Discernment of Spirits (St. Louis, Missouri: The Institute of Jesuit Sources, 1995)

Syllabus

Week 1 Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality
Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola and other writings
Making Decisions
Conflicted Heart/Trusting in Feelings

Week 2 Examen
Consolation and Desolation
Ignatius and “Spirits”

Week 3 Reflection short paper due
Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment: First Week
Case studies

Week 4 Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment: Second Week
Making a good discernment and Final Decisions
Case studies

Week 5 Retreat November: noon (Thursday) to 3:00 pm (Friday)

Final Paper is welcome at the beginning of the last class but must be submitted before noon on December 10th by e-mail to the instructor. The instructor will immediately notify the student that it has been received.

Evaluation

The points and letter grades for the course will be structured as follows:

40% Class and Retreat participation.
30% Occasional Short papers and Original Case Studies
30% Final Paper
### Assignment and Points

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<td>Reflection Paper 1</td>
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<td>Case Study Paper</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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### Reading

All the reading is required (i.e. mandatory). Though I cover the main concepts of the lectures in class, it is nonetheless your responsibility to make sure that you read the texts thoroughly and ask questions if you do not. I will lecture assuming that you have both read and understood the texts that I have chosen. If you experience any difficulties with the reading assigned for any given lecture, do not hesitate to contact me. I shall be happy to help.

### Participation

During the semester you are required to actively participate in (add ‘class’) discussions. In order to receive a high mark for participation it is expected that you ask critical questions that are directly related to the week’s reading, and that you contribute to our discussions with your own remarks and arguments.

### Reflection Papers and Case Study

The short papers are reflections on the material covered in class as well as in the readings to indicate that a student has an understanding of the subject. These are due prior to the beginning of the class as noted. Papers are to be no less than 1400 words in length and no greater than 2000 words (3 to 4 pages). I expect that you will place the actual ‘word count’ at the top of each paper.

The student will also be asked to present a case study in the classes noted to indicate that the student has a working knowledge of the subject. Case studies should be written and handed in at the end of the class as noted. They may be used as points for discussion during that same class.
Final Paper

For your final paper, you are required to write a 3500 to 4000 words essay (approximately 10 pages). In the Final Paper, the student will place him/herself in the role of counselor and/or friend to a person who is struggling to choose between “two goods.” Using the Ignatian method of discernment, the student will show from the exposition of the case to the resolution how he/she would guide that person.

A strong final paper will use a minimum of four refereed journal articles and two primary sources, including:

- References from the required course reading
- References from the recommended readings (provided by the teacher)
- References from outside and new sources, suggested by the student (primary sources are encouraged when possible).

Academic dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty/impropriety on examinations, papers, and any other assignments will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please read the appropriate pages in the Student Handbook (to be found in Dr. Waller’s office).

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are crucial to the successful completion of this course.

Attendance at all classes (and at the retreat) is required to all students. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, having completed the week’s course readings and assignments, with a pen, paper and books in-hand. Students are expected to read their email daily to keep abreast of important academic and Italy Center related issues. It is the student’s responsibility to notify his/her teachers of an anticipated absence, make arrangements to complete the work, and then complete the work as agreed. In the event a student misses one class he/she will automatically be marked down one entire grade point. For example, if a student is expecting to receive a “B” for a course the final grade for the course will be dropped to a “C”. Excused absences require a note from the Spring Hill medical Doctor (Stephen Williams, M.D.) or from Dr. Todd Waller. Any change in status which will result in absence, the student must contact me immediately. It is a student’s responsibility to keep him/herself informed of pending strikes, changes in air travel and any other potential obstacles that may prohibit one from being at class on time. Excuses related to travel delays will not be accepted.

Bio: John Chandler S.J.

Father Chandler entered the Society of Jesus in 1983 after having spent nearly 20 years as a diocesan priest in Buffalo, New York. As a member of the California Providence of Jesuits, Father Chandler has held a number of positions in California and Hawaii. Since 2003 he has spent the majority of his time offering support and guidance to American students studying abroad at the Loyola University of Chicago’s Rome Center. He has served as the Associate Chaplain for Loyola of Rome’s Campus Ministry and as the Associate Director of the “Rome Start” (international freshman students) program.

Today is April 20, 2013