COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course (HS 2442: Don Bosco Builder) running from February to May 2009 surveys the life and times of John Melchior Bosco (“Don Bosco,” 1815-1888) from the founding of the Salesian Society (1859) and the unification of Italy (1861) to his death (1888) with particular attention to the political, social and religious context. This context is particularly important because these twenty-five plus years saw an on-going laicization of society, an end of the pope’s temporal power, and the diminished influence of the Church in society, first under the governments of the historic Right (1861-1876), then under those much more hostile of the radical Left (1876-1891). Against this turbulent scenario, the course surveys the consolidation and expansion of the Salesian Society and the extraordinary diversification of the Salesian apostolate in the lifetime of the Founder.

FORMAT & METHODOLOGY:

1. Classroom Instruction
   Classroom instruction is imparted by the composite method of lecture, student interaction, and discussion particularly on the basis of readings assigned.

2. Prerequisites for the Course
   - Elementary knowledge of the history of Western Europe from the French Revolution (1789) through the nineteenth century—highly desirable;
   - HS 2881: Don Bosco Founder

3. Course Requirements
   - Attendance at all class sessions;
   - Participation in discussions;
   - Completion of reading assignments;
   - Writing and submitting reflection papers as assigned.

4. Reading Requirements
   - **Basic reading**, as listed below, is further specified for each topic.
   - **Instructor’s Notes** do not constitute a textbook or a reader. Their purpose is to provide practical aids and additional material not easily available to the student.
   - **Complementary reading** is suggested where appropriate, and a **select bibliography** on particular topics is provided with Instructor’s Notes.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Basic Books


This is a translation of Giovanni Bonetti, *Cinque Lustri di Storia dell'Oratorio Salesiano fondato dal Sac. Don Giovanni Bosco* Torino: [Tipografia Salesiana], 1892 (published after Fr. Bonetti's death under Fr. G.B. Francesia’s supervision). This, in turn, is an adaptation of [Giovanni Bonetti], "Storia dell'Oratorio di San Francesco di Sales," published serially in *Bollettino Salesiano* from 1879 to 1886.


This is a translation and adaptation (with considerable condensations and omissions) of the Italian *Memorie Biografiche di San Giovanni Bosco*, 19 volumes: Vols. 1-9 (1898-1917, by Lemoyne); 10 (1939, by Amadei); 11-19 (1930-1939, by Ceria) — *IBM*


This is a translation (with additions by D. d. B.) of Morand Wirth, *Don Bosco et les Salésiens: Cent-cinquante ans d’histoire or Don Bosco e i Salesiani: centocinqu'anni di storia* (Torino-Leumann: LDC, 1969), published simultaneously in French and Italian. David de Burgh wrote an additional chapter to bring it up to publication date in English.


Desramaut, Francis *Don Bosco en son temps (1815-1888)* (Torino: Società Editrice Internazionale, 1996). — *Desramaut, DB.*

This critical biography of Don Bosco, is the final editing of 9 large biographical studies (*Études I-IX*) published between 1988 and 1995, in *Cahiers Lyonnais de Recherches Salésiennes* (Salesian Studies Center in Lyons, France), directed by Father Francis Desramaut. This work is highly recommended to French-language readers.

Dicastero per la Formazione, *Sussidi 1 per lo Studio di Don Bosco e della sua Opera, Il Tempo di Don Bosco* (Ed. Extra-commerciale; Frascati: Tip. Giammarioli, 1986) — *Sussidi 1*

Additional English-language biographies:


Bosco, Teresio, *Don Bosco*, tr. from the Italian *Don Bosco, una biografia nuova* by SDB and FMA (Nairobi, Kenya: Paulines Publications Africa, 2003)

II. Modern English-Language works on Don Bosco (Spirituality, Educational Method)


Bosco, John, Selected writings translated and edited in appendices to the *Constitutions and Regulations* (1984)—among them, the following:


III. Articles from the *Journal of Salesian Studies* (Institute of Salesian Spirituality, Berkeley, CA)

A number of articles published in the *Journal* are related to the topics of this survey—such as the following by Arthur J. Lenti:

“Don Bosco’s Missionary Dreams (Part II),” *JSS* 4:1 (spring 1993) 1-60
“Don Bosco’s Last Years, Last Illness and Saintly Death from Eyewitness Accounts,” *JSS* 5:2 (fall 1994) 23-97
“Key-Concepts, Concerns And Fears of a Founder […] (Part I).” *JSS* 6:2 (fall 1995) 1-48
“Key-Concepts, Concerns And Fears of a Founder […] (Part II).” *JSS* 7:1 (spring 1996) 1-82
“Don Bosco’s Beatification and Canonization […],” *JSS* 10:1 (spring 1999), 65-144
“Politics of the ‘Our Father’ and of the Holy Father […]”, *JSS* 10:2 (fall 1999) 181-245

A number of papers in this collection [DB’sPH] are related to the topics of this survey—such as the following:

Tuninetti, G., “The Conflict between Don Bosco and the Archbishop of Turin Lorenzo Gastaldi […]” DB’sPH, 141-147
Deleidi, A., “Don Bosco and Maria Domenica Mazzarello […]” DB’sPH, 213-224
Tramontin, S., “Don Bosco and the world of Work,” DB’sPH, 246-264
Bellerate, B., “Don Bosco’s Humanistic Approach to Education,” DB’sPH, 325-340
Prellezo, J.M. “Don Bosco and Professional Schools (1870-1887),” DB’sPH, 341-364
Scurati, C., “Classroom and ‘Playground’,” DB’sPH, 365-379
Malgeri, F., “Don Bosco’s Work as a Publisher,” DB’sPH, 451-459
Borrego, J., The “Originality of Don Bosco’s Patagonian Missionary Enterprise,” DB’sPH, 467-484

IV. Historical Context—Political and Ecclesiastical (1789-1888)

Aubert, Roger et al., The Church in a Secularized Society (The Christian Centuries 5) (New York: Paulist Press; London: Darton Longman and Todd, 1978)
Duggan, Christopher, A Concise History of Italy (Cambridge University Press, 1994)