

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Institute of Salesian Studies - Spring 2020

HS 2443: Don Bosco's Environment

3.0 units (5 ECTS) – Monday: 9:40-12:30, ISS

Instructor: Joseph Boenzi, SDB

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Course Description

The course examines the social, political, cultural and religious context in which St John Bosco (1815-1888), an innovative Christian educator and spiritual director, lived and worked. Don Bosco (as he is familiarly known) became so influential that his outreach to needy youth continues, not only in his native Italy, but in 132 countries around the globe.

The objective of this course: to make a synthesis, at least in its fundamental points, that will allow us to reflect on the figure of Don Bosco in his own context and then to ransom his image as it is held captive by the conditioning of his times, to bring his insights into the contemporary world. In this way we can let his experiences speak to us as we attempt to deal with challenges that the Salesian family must confront today.

Expectations

Teaching method: HS2443 is primarily a survey course. My presentations will highlight critical periods in Don Bosco's life, in the social, political, cultural and religious context in which he lived and worked. And since biography can be a tool for understanding history and theology, the presentations will examine the conflicts between Church and State, movements of industrialization and subsequent mass migrations, political movements toward Italian nationhood, and the conditions of the young people among whom Don Bosco worked, and who were directly impacted by tumultuous social and cultural conditions during that century of unprecedented change.

Through lectures, PowerPoint presentations or other means, I will attempt to help you to visualize the times and personages that you will be studying; I provide a text to coincide with my lectures and to develop material at greater depth. I shall also indicate some primary source documents that emanate from the periods and movements under examination. At key intervals we will dedicate time to group work and class discussion.

Student roles: While I hope to provide you with positive input, I do believe that you and your classmates have the greatest role in creating a good learning environment. In this context, let me state clearly what are my expectations in terms of your participation in the course. I expect that you will attend all the class sessions; if there is a serious reason that prevents you from doing so, I would appreciate your speaking to me about your absence. I expect that you will participate in group projects, giving everyone a chance to speak and building on one another's contributions (I believe that students add breadth and depth to the course for one another). Finally, I expect that you will complete reading and written assignments in a timely fashion.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you will have gained an overview of the social, political, cultural and religious aspects of that environment forming Don Bosco's world view and pastoral priorities.

You will have learned some of the principles of historiography, and honed skills in critical analysis of written text through participation in class/group discussions and by developing a research techniques in an organized fashion.

Tools for assessment

In addition to attendance and class participation, your learning in this course will be assessed on the basis of class discussions and three key assignments in the form of two reflection papers and one final class presentation.

Scheduling

HS2195 is slated to meet on Mondays during 2nd and 3rd periods (9:40-12:30) in ISS Room 1. During the second week of the semester we will firm up the instruction calendar and due dates for assignments; lecture schedules and reading deadlines will be finalized during the third week of class.

Texts

Boenzi, Joseph. "Don Bosco's Social, Political and Religious Environment." Notes for the exclusive and private use of students of HS2443. Berkeley: ISS, 2019 [Bound photocopy notes, \$35.00].

Course Outline - Topics to Cover

Unit 1: A Panorama of Nineteenth-Century Italy

- Brush strokes of Don Bosco's Italy
- Geo-political situation
- Italy in 1815
- Religious Realities in Restoration Italy
- Romanticism
- Return to the values of earlier times

Unit 2: The Restoration and the Church

- Papacy's Enhanced Role
- Lay involvement
- Nineteenth-Century Spirituality of Anxiety
- Marian devotion during the nineteenth century
- Mission Movement
- Apostolate of the Press:
- Catholic Friendships and Secret Societies
- Political situation

Unit 3: Church Leadership during the Restoration and Risorgimento

Archbishops of Turin during the Nineteenth Century
The Popes of the Nineteenth Century

Unit 4: The grass-roots Church in Turin

Seminary formation in Turin during the Restoration.
Alternative formation for priests: The Pastoral Institute of Turin

Unit 5: Public Assistance and Christian Welfare – Opera Barolo

Juliette Colbert de Maulévrier and Tancredi Falletti di Barolo: Operative charity
Prison reform, refuge for exploited girls, Religious communities, Parish reform
Spirituality as laity in the style of Francis de Sales
Advancing Christian education and making an impact on the Church of Turin

Unit 6: The Unification of Italy - 1848-1870

Democracy, Unification and Catholic Attitudes
Everything at 48
Intervening years: Piedmont jockeys for a unified Italy
Second War of Independence
The Expedition of the 1000
1861 - Italy's First Parliament
Education as the path to Italian identity

Unit 7: Pius IX and the Roman Question

Shortcomings of a leader
Syllabus 1864
Vatican I
The Law of Guarantees

Unit 8: Church in the aftermath of Unification

New lay movements in Italy
Don Bosco and the Laity
Lines of spirituality in the second part of the century
Political and Social Problems

Unit 9: Open to the future: Don Bosco's approach to religious and social problems

Associations
The founding of schools as valid youth work
Information and Communications
Total environment

Unit 10. Don Bosco's young people: The conditions of pre-industrial youth in Don Bosco's times

Social Scene of Don Bosco's Turin
The young in Don Bosco's times
Don Bosco's young people

Unit 11. Don Bosco's Marian Devotion

The Marian Tide of the 1800s: Historical Events
First elements of Marian piety

Mary as Protector and Guide through Life
How Don Bosco speaks of Mary to young people
Immaculate Conception
The Help of Christians
The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a wider apostolic outreach

Unit 12. New Communities for the Salvation of Youth

Socio-religious problems of the clergy
Separation of Church and State
Salesians for the regeneration and salvation of Society
Sense of family and Salesian Family

Primary sources (in translation):

Giovanni Bosco, Saint. *Memorie dell'Oratorio di S. Francesco di Sales dal 1815 al 1855*; saggio introduttivo e note storiche a cura di Aldo Giraud. Roma: LAS, 2011

[*Memoirs of the Oratory of Saint Francis de Sales from 1815 to 1855: the autobiography of Saint John Bosco*; translated by Daniel Lyons, with notes and commentary by Eugenio Ceria, Lawrence Castelvechi, and Michael Mendl. New Rochelle: Don Bosco Publications, 1989].

_____. *Vite di Giovani: Le biografie di Domenico Savio, Michele Magone e Francesco Besucco*; Saggio introduttivo e note storiche a cura di Aldo Giraud. Roma: LAS, 2012.

Selected bibliography

Historical Resources

Cepellini, Vincenzo and Paolo Boroli, general editors. *Compact Storia d'Italia: Cronologia 1815-1990*. Novara: Istituto Geografico DeAgostini, 1991.

Dicastero per la Formazione, *Dizionario. Alcune situazioni, istituzioni e personaggi dell'ambiente in cui visse Don Bosco* [Pro-manuscripto, Sussidi 2]. Frascati: Giammarioli, 1988.

Dicastero per la Formazione, *Per una lettura di Don Bosco. Percorsi di storia salesiana* [Pro-manuscripto, Sussidi 1]. Frascati: Giammarioli, 1989.

Dicastero per la Formazione, *Il tempo di Don Bosco* [Pro-manuscripto, Sussidi 1]. Frascati: Giammarioli, 1986.

Other Resources

Belardelli, Giovanni. *Mazzini*. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2010.

Bona, Candido, *Le "Amicizie:" Società segrete e rinascita religiosa (1770-1830)*. Torino: Storia Patria, 1962.

Bosco, Teresio. *Esercizi Spirituali con Don Bosco*. Leumann: Elledici, 1982.

- Buccellato, Giuseppe. *Appunti per una «Storia Spirituale» del sacerdote Gio' Bosco*. Leumann: Elledici, 2008.
- Camera, Augusto, L'età contemporanea. Economia, politica, civiltà. Milano: Principato, 1985.
- Campolietti, Giuseppe. *Re Franceschiello: L'ultimo sovrano delle Due Sicilie*. L'Edizione Oscar Storia. Milano: Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 2005.
- Cardoza, Anthony L., and Geoffrey W. Symcox. *Storia di Torino*. Traduzione di Valentina Besi, Cinzia Di Barbara, e Francesca Salvadori. Torino: Giulio Einaudi editore, 2006.
- Chiesa, Teresio, and Antonio Alessi. *Don Bosco e il suo ambiente: raccolta documentaria sull'ambiente da cui don Bosco provenne e quello in cui svolse la sua missione*. Fotografie di Teresio Chiesa, SDB; testo di Antonio Alessi SDB. Torino-Leumann: Elledici, 1977.
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- Fonzi, Fausto. "I vescovi," in *Chiesa e religiosità in Italia dopo l'Unità (1861-1878)*. Atti del quarto convegno di Storia della Chiesa. La Mendola, 31 agosto - 5 settembre 1971, Relazioni I, 32-58. Milano: Vita e Pensiero, 1973.
- Goffi, Tullio. *La Spiritualità dell'Ottocento*. Storia della Spiritualità, no. 7. Bologna: Dehoniana, 1989.
- Hales, Edward Elton Young. *Mazzini and the Secret Societies: The Making of a Myth*. New York: P. J. Kennedy & Sons, 1956.
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- Hennesey, James J. "Vatican Council I," in *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. vol. 15: 403-7. Detroit: Thompson-Gale, 2002.
- Hughes, Henry Louis. *The Catholic Revival in Italy, 1815-1915*. London: Burns Oates & Washbourne, 1935.
- Jemolo, Arturo Carlo. *Church and State in Italy: 1850-1950*. Translated by David Moore. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1960.
- King, David. *Vienna 1814: How the Conquerors of Napoleon Made Love, War, and Peace at the Congress of Vienna*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2008.
- Lanteri, Pio Brunone, *Carteggio del ven. Padre Pio Bruno Lanteri*. Edited by Paolo Calliari, 5 vols. Torino: Lanteriana, 1975-1976.
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- _____. *Don Bosco, History and Spirit*. Edited by Aldo Giraud, in 7 vols. Roma: LAS, 2007-2010.

- Milanesi, Giancarlo. "I giovani oggi e possibilità educative nello stile di Don Bosco," pp. 126-169 in *Il sistema educativo di Don Bosco tra pedagogia antica e nuova*. Atti del Convegno Europeo Salesiano sul Sistema Educativo di Don Bosco. Torino- Leumann: Elledici, 1974.
- Piatti, Tommaso. *Un precursore dell'Azione Cattolica*. 4th ed. Torino: Marietti, 1954.
- Pillepich, Alain. *Napoleone e gli italiani*. Traduzione di Renato Riccardi. Edizione italiana a cura di Vittorio Criscuolo. Collana: Biblioteca storica. Bologna: Il Mulino, 2005.
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