I. Course Description
   a. This class will be a general historical survey of Christian monastic history, practice, theology, and spirituality. Topics covered in this course will include, but not be limited to, the Desert Fathers, the Eastern monastic experience, the way of ascent, patristic monastic centers in Europe, the Benedictine centuries, monasticism and the Crusades, monastic views of “the world” and “the flesh.”
   b. Envisioned outcomes:
      i. Students will be able to identify the major monastic movements in Christian history and point out the colossal influence monasticism and monks have had on the development of Christian doctrine.
      ii. Students will be able to articulate the difference between monastic and scholastic understandings of theology and theological method.
      iii. Students will be familiar with monastic ascetic practices and the accompanying theology which supports them.
      iv. Students will be familiar with monastic mystical practices and the various ways one can “see God.”

II. Graded Requirements
   a. A final exam to be administered at the beginning of the last class, June 14th.
   b. A 8-10 page research paper, due one week after our last class (June 21st) on one of the following topics (all thesis statements must be approved by the professor):
      i. Compare and contrast two ways given by the monastic tradition by which we can “see God.”
      ii. What is the difference between monastic theology and scholastic theology? Pick two to four monastic and scholastic theologians and compare their methods, conclusions, sources, etc.
      iii. How has the monastic tradition impacted Church doctrine? Pick one or two teachings and demonstrate the monastic influence.
      iv. Compare and contrast in detail how the Divine Office was prayed by two or three different monastic traditions.
      v. What is the role of obedience in the various Christian monastic traditions?
   c. Seminar Participation

III. Texts
   a. A reader to be given in class
   b. The following texts must be procured by the student (several are published for free online, some you will have to purchase):
      i. *The Life of St. Antony* by St. Athanasius (online: http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/2811.htm)
ii. *The Institutes* by John Cassian (online: [http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3507.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3507.htm))

iii. *The Golden Epistle* by William of St. Thierry

iv. *The Steps of Humility and Pride* by St. Bernard of Clairvaux


IV. Daily Schedule

a. **Session One: May 17th**
   i. Required Reading: *The Life of St. Antony*
   ii. 8am-8:30am – Class intro and Syllabus
   iii. 8:30am -11am – Lecture on pre-Christian/non-Christian roots of monasticism
   iv. 11am-1:30pm – Mass and Lunch
   v. 1:30pm-3:30pm – Lecture on the beginnings of Christian monasticism
   vi. 3:30pm-5pm – Seminar on *The Life of St. Antony*

b. **Session Two: May 24th**
   i. Required Reading: *The Institutes* of John Cassian and St. Jerome’s Letters to Rusticus and Eustochium (reader)
   ii. 8am-9:30am – Lecture on the Golden age of Patristic Monasticism
   iii. 9:30am-11am – Seminar on St. Jerome’s Letters to Rusticus and Eustochium
   iv. 11am-1:30pm – Mass and Lunch
   v. 1:30pm-3:30pm – Lecture on the Golden age of Patristic Monasticism continued
   vi. 3:30pm-5pm – Seminar on *The Institutes of John Cassian*

c. **Session Three: May 30th**
   ii. 8am-9:30am – Lecture on the birth of Benedictine Monasticism
   iii. 9:30am-11am – Seminar on *The Rule of St. Benedict*
   iv. 11am-1:30pm – Mass and Lunch
   v. 1:30pm-3:30pm – Benedictine Monasticism continued
   vi. 3:30pm-5pm – Seminar on *The Dialogues of Pope St. Gregory the Great*

d. **Session Four: June 7th**
   ii. 8am-9:30am – Lecture on the age of the Mixed rules
   iii. 9:30am-11am – Seminar on *The Rule for Monks* by St. Columbanus and *Soliloquy on the Earnest Money of the Soul* by Hugh of St. Victor
   iv. 11am-1:30pm – Mass and Lunch
e. Session Five: June 14th
   i. Required Reading: *The Ladder of Monks* by Guigo II (reader), *The Steps of Humility and Pride* by St. Bernard, and as much of the *Lectures on Conversion* by St. Bernard (reader) as you can get through.
ii. 8am-10am – Final Exam
iii. 10am-11am – Lecture on the Benedictine ascendancy
iv. 11am-1:30pm – Mass and Lunch
v. 1:30pm-3:30pm – Benedictine ascendancy continued
vi. 3:30pm-5pm – Seminar on *The Ladder of Monks* and *The Steps of Humility and Pride*

V. Evaluation
   a. Final exam 40%
   b. Research Paper 35%
   c. Seminar participation 25%

VI. Grading scale
   i. 94-100 A
   ii. 86-93 B
   iii. 77-85 C
   iv. 70-76 D
   v. 0-69 F

VII. Research Paper Guidelines
   a. Research paper: The student must write an 8-10 page research paper on one of the topics listed above. The paper should have the following characteristics:
      i. All topics must be approved by the instructor before the paper is written.
      ii. Written in 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins all around.
      iii. It must be written in a style that supports footnotes. Turabian is the most common research paper style for philosophy and theology.
      iv. It must contain a claim (i.e. thesis statement) near the beginning of the paper. The rest of the paper must endeavor to prove that claim.
      v. It must utilize no less than eight academic sources; four of which must be articles from peer reviewed journals.
      vi. A full bibliography must be included.
      vii. It must be grammatically and mechanically flawless.
      viii. The paper is due by midnight June 21st. It must be emailed to me in a Microsoft Word format. I will not take paper copies.

VIII. Seminar guidelines:
   a. Due to the nature of the course as a graduate-level academic undertaking, class participation is an irreplaceable part of the course, and counts for a full 25% of the grade. The form of spoken participation which will make up most of the graded class participation is seminar discussion of several works. This requires that students attempt to grasp as much of the readings as possible outside of class, and then come to class prepared to discuss the readings.
b. The various sources that will be read all have a depth and richness that can only be uncovered fully when each student, on the basis of attentive and dedicated reading, comes up with observant and helpful insights. In particular, analogies, comparisons and contrasts made by the students help the entire class understand the material more clearly, as does relating the work to the course lectures. “I don’t know,” and “I didn’t read it” are entirely unacceptable responses to the material and will be graded accordingly. The key is to interpret the reading and draw out its most significant elements in dialogue with your classmates and the instructor. A good seminar participation will have the following characteristics:

i. Clarity: The student must not generalize or be vague
ii. Cogency: The student’s contribution must have good logical consistency; it must be reasonable; it must “make sense.”
iii. Concision: The student’s contribution must be “to the point,” and not needlessly multiply words.
iv. Textual: Your comment must reference the text. You are free, encouraged even, to bring in insights from other areas, but the main point must be to illuminate some area of the text in question.

IX. Attendance
a. Class attendance: Due to the nature of the program, no one can miss more than 3 consecutive hours of instruction without excuse and remain in the course. Also, no one can miss more than a total of four hours of instruction without 10% of the final grade being subtracted.
b. MISSING A SATURDAY SESSION
   i. This course meets exclusively in an intensive five Saturday format. Because of this, missing a Saturday session is never allowable if a student has not sought and received permission from the instructor. If a student is allowed to miss a Saturday session, the following conditions apply:
      1. The student must seek and receive permission to miss the session PRIOR TO the session;
      2. The student must hand in all class requirements that are due on the date of the session missed no later than the date of that session;
      3. The student must arrange in advance to have a fellow student tape the entire Saturday session, and notify the instructor of the name of the student who will be taping the session;
      4. The student must take notes on all lectures and class activities from the taped session, and submit a typed copy of these notes to the instructor PRIOR TO the next class meeting (this can be done through email);
      5. The student cannot achieve a grade higher than a “B” in the course;
      6. If the student fails to meet the above requirements (A-D), then the student will receive an “F” for the course.
      7. NO STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO MISS ANY ADDITIONAL SESSIONS. If a student misses an additional session they must withdraw from the course (with a grade of “W”, “WP” or “WF”) or receive an “F” for the course.
X. Academic Integrity  
a. Follow the student handbook guidelines in regard to cheating and plagiarism.  
b. Any student caught willfully cheating or plagiarizing will fail this course.  
   Furthermore, the instructor will report the event to the academic dean to  
   determine if the student will be allowed to remain enrolled as a graduate student  
   for Notre Dame Seminary.