

Assessment Report AY 2021-2022

1. Identifying Information

Saint Ignatius Institute
Certificate Program (Saint Ignatius Institute—living learning community)
Jessica Blum-Sorensen, SII Program Director, Program Director and Assistant Professor of
Classical Studies

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2. Mission Statement

Following revisions in 2019/2020, the mission statement is as follows:

Mission Statement:

The St. Ignatius Institute is a core living/learning community at the University of San Francisco (USF) that is distinctively Jesuit. The SII curriculum and community challenge students to think critically and creatively; to reason and ask questions; and to attain a deeper understanding of the human experience across time and space. Our academic approach is multidisciplinary, historical, and global. Our curriculum integrates the study of influential ideas from around the globe to engage with the challenging realities of our world. Through intellectual inquiry, community involvement, service to others, and exploration of spirituality, SII students tackle “Great Questions”—the ideas and issues people have debated and discussed for centuries. Through SII core classes and symposia, students are challenged to explore new ideas, uncover old theories, listen respectfully to opinions different than their own, and, in the senior symposium, reflect on their own education and future paths.

3. Program Learning Outcomes

1. Identify major themes, key concepts, and perennial questions in works across the humanities (arts, literature, history, philosophy, religion and theology)
2. Interpret and analyze complex and contested histories and contexts of Christianity in the world before 1800
3. Employ interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, or discipline-specific methods in scholarly inquiry
4. Articulate critical arguments using relevant primary and secondary sources
5. Evaluate challenges facing local and global communities in light of community engagement
6. Articulate their own intellectual and personal gifts in light of major world religions, particularly the Catholic, Jesuit traditions of *cura personalis*, finding God in all things, discernment of one’s deepest desires, contemplation in action, and becoming people for (and with) others

4. Curricular Map

Following revisions in 2019/2020, the certificate requirements are as follows:

Ancient Philosophy
SII 210 Ancient Philosophy

Theology
SII 106 Sacred Scripture

SII 201 Catholic Thought Ethics

SII 214 Theories of Ethics

SII 215 Ethical Theory/Practice SII Symposium (8 units)

One 2-unit SII Symposium per year is required for the first three years, and Senior Symposium is required in the final year.

5. Assessment schedule between APRs; description of the methodology for the required and/or alternative assessment process; description of results

Following curriculum revisions in AY 2019-2020, SII assessment for this year will focus on creating a roadmap for future assessment. The first step is to develop a set of guidelines (see Appendix 1 below) for SII symposia, as the distinctive courses in which SII students come together to consider the “enduring questions” at the core of the program. This process of discernment will enable the program to extend assessment of the PLOs to the core courses offered in Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics in AY 2022-2023.

6. Description of how the results were shared with faculty and how your department/program responded to the results. Plans for future improvement or assessment of your program.

Beginning in February 2023, SII will hold a series of fora for participating faculty to share ideas and offer feedback on how the new curriculum is working in practice. In addition, a new Steering Committee will be created with the specific goal of developing a rubric for assessment of symposia, which previously have had only informal guidelines. Building on the work of the previous SII Director, Katrina Olds, we will formalize symposia guidelines and review current syllabi.

7. Discussion of any significant feedback from your previous year’s report and how your department/program responded to that feedback.

Feedback last year centered on the revised curriculum and plans to develop assessment tools; see above for the program’s response and roadmap for future assessment.

Appendix 1: Draft Guidelines for SII Symposia

Draft Symposia Guidelines for SII Instructors January 2023

Background

One of SII's previous directors, Sean Michelson, S.J., introduced the symposia to the SII curriculum c.2007 when he noticed that students pay for tuition which includes up to 18 credits, but usually only take a 16-unit course load. Since he was also an English professor, he originally envisioned the symposia as a semester-long course on one particular *opus*, such as *Don Quixote* or *Ulysses*.

Since then, the symposia have evolved, but they share this initial focus on a topic of interest to the instructor, and the freedom to delve into it in ways not usually possible in, say, a core class.

The aim of the symposia is to give students a chance to study topics which would not normally fall under the rubric of the core curriculum or, for non-humanities majors, in their major areas of study. The topics and methods are left up to the professor, who is, after all, the expert in the field.

This is especially important nowadays, when many (most?) of our SII students do not major in literature, languages, or other humanities. Like undergrads everywhere, they have gravitated to the 'hard' sciences such as Biology and Chemistry; social sciences such as Psychology; and career-oriented programs like Nursing or Business.

For this reason, the symposium is a special place and time to introduce students to the joy of grappling with the perennial questions of humanity, but without the imperative to meet all of the various aims of the core curriculum, for example.

Workload:

Symposia are 2 units*, lasting either a semester or a half-semester. As such, the workload over the extent of the course's duration should equal half of what you normally do for a 4-unit class. (**See WASC guidelines for seat-time and credit hours below).

*Please note that symposia are listed as 2 units, although students are allowed to register for 1 if registering for 2 would put them over the 18-unit limit for full-time tuition costs.

**The University credit hour policy applies equally to courses of varying credits, duration, and modes of instruction. One unit of credit in lecture, seminar, and discussion work should approximate one hour of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work per week through one 15-week semester: in other words, a minimum of 45 hours of student work is expected for each unit of credit.

Written Assignments: The symposium should include written assignment(s) as opportunities for interpretation, analysis, and reflection, per SII PLOs 1, 2, and 4.

Methods/Focus: These are up to the discretion of the instructor. Generally symposia are small discussion-based classes with a focus on the humanities and the perennial questions of humanity.

Rotation: The intention is to offer a varied selection for students. Instructors who have not taught for SII recently should receive priority consideration. The SII Director will endeavor to give priority to full-time faculty, as per University directives, but only inasmuch as it does not impede SII to continue to offer rich, varied, and stimulating symposia which fulfill our Program Learning Outcomes.

Registration for non-SII students: Allowed if space permits, at the instructor's discretion. When enrollment is lagging, we often open up these and other SII classes to non-SII students.

Majors/Minors in Other Fields: We can, and often do, set aside 4-5 seats for students from the major/minor field of the instructor. You should feel free to encourage students from your home program/department to enroll. This has proven to be a vital strategy for SII and for our home departments in the humanities to maintain varied course offerings at a time of great difficulties due to sagging student enrollments and University cuts.

Scheduling a symposium:

- You may choose to offer two symposia in a row one semester, as long as you allow students to choose one or both of them regardless of whether they've taken the other. We usually schedule them back-to-back, i.e., as if they were one four-unit class.
- If you choose to offer your symposium for the entire semester, plan to meet at half-time (i.e., once/week). That way the Director can pair it in the schedule with another in order to meet the University directives around scheduling.