

# THE IGNATIAN YEAR

## Day 1: Connecting the Ignatian Year to Your Class and Your Students

Tips from Marquette's Center for Teaching and Learning



"Today our (Society of Jesus) prime educational objective must be to form men (and women) for others; men (and women) who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men (and women) who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men (and women) completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce."

~Pedro Arrupe

The first day of class presents both responsibility and opportunity for educators. It allows you to introduce yourself appropriately and with some vulnerability, set your course expectations for you and your students, begin to build relationships and community, create some enthusiasm for the content area, and, like many of life's other first meetings, allows you to make an initial good impression as someone with knowledge and as someone who believes in everyone's ability to succeed.

This coming year presents another opportunity to help students understand that their experience at Marquette University, grounded in Catholic, Jesuit values, will in fact be different than student experiences at many other universities. This year we will celebrate the Ignatian Year, marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ignatius' lifechanging injury in the Battle of Pamplona that ultimately led to the founding of the Jesuit order in 1534.

Below are some suggestions for how to connect your course and its activities to the Ignatian Year in the first few days of class. Whether you decide to provide in-depth connections, passing references, reflection questions for students to think about, and/or resources on your class D2L page, all are useful to help understand your class and its connection to this celebratory year at Marquette and around the globe. See the resources at the end of this document for more information.

### **SETTING THE STAGE**

- **How does the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, or the foundations of the Jesuit order, or the Catholic intellectual tradition connect to your discipline?**
  - According to Fr. General Peter Kolvenbach, the twenty-ninth Superior General of the Society of Jesus, pedagogy is how we accompany our students in their growth and development, but it must be more than methodology. It should include a worldview and a vision of the ideal human person.
  - In 1973, Father Pedro Arrupe coined the phrase, "men and women for (and with) others."
  - According to Fr. Kolvenbach, Jesuit pedagogy helps cultivate students who are "well-rounded, intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice in generous service to the people of God" ([Ignatian Pedagogy: A Practical Approach, pg. 5](#)).
  - He continues: "We aim to form leaders in service, in imitation of Christ Jesus, men and women of competence, conscience and compassionate commitment." ([Ignatian Pedagogy: A Practical Approach, pg. 5](#)).
  - Such goals require a full and deeper formation of the human person, an educational process of formation that calls for excellence to help students achieve their potential, including intellectually but also in the ways noted above. It calls for a human excellence modelled on Christ of the Gospels, an excellence that reflects the mystery and reality of the Incarnation, an excellence that reveres the dignity of all people as well as the holiness of all creation.

- **How will you be using the Ignatian concepts unique to Jesuit universities in the classroom?**
  - Context: You will get to know them, their backgrounds, and what matters to them. You can approach your students through *Cura Personalis* (care for the whole person).
  - Experience: You will engage them as whole persons and will draw from their own backgrounds and experiences in connection with course content.
  - Reflection: You will ask them to reflect not just what they learned but how their learning can affect the world, change their view of the world, and how they can find their role in meeting the world where its needs are.
  - Action: You will try to incorporate into class assignments, discussions, and other activities ways to get them to think about changes in their own behavior that helps them become men and women with and for others.
  - Evaluation: You will try to assess learning reflective of students' growth in their minds, hearts, and spirits.

### **Other Things to Consider:**

- Pause with your students, perhaps mid-semester, to do an internal reflection about these questions and don't be afraid to ask them how they—and you—are doing. This kind of reflection, looking back in order to look ahead, is a common Ignatian strategy.
- Take time at the end of the semester to revisit the ways in which you incorporated the Catholic Jesuit identity into the class, whether it was how you taught, what you taught, the activities you asked them to do, and how you found gratitude and appreciation for different aspects of the class, both good and bad.

## **CONTENT, STUDENT LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT**

**CONTENT:** How might you connect the content of your class to the following Ignatian elements and principles?

- Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching
  1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
  2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
  3. Rights and Responsibilities
  4. Preferential Option for the Poor
  5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
  6. Solidarity
  7. Care for God's Creation
  
- Four Universal Apostolic Principles (2019-2029)
  1. **Showing the way to God:** Show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment
  2. **Walking with the excluded:** Walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice
  3. **Journeying with youth:** Accompanying young people in the creation of a hope-filled future
  4. **Caring for our common home:** Collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God's Creation
  
- Connections to Pope Francis's Encyclicals
  - **Fratelli Tutti:** On connectedness, loneliness, and engagement
  - **Laudato Si':** On care for our common home
  
- Connections to Marquette's Mission and Guiding Values
- Catholic, Jesuit intellectual traditions

**STUDENT LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT:** How might you connect the learning activities in your class to Ignatian pedagogy, the content above, and this year at Marquette? And how might you make these connections evident to students in what you are asking them to do?

- How students will be learning in this class
  - Consider formative assessments, active application of student learning to the world, connections to the content listed above, and the relationship among students in community in your class.
- Particular activities or assessments that are Ignatian or reflective in nature
  - Using the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP)
    - Context – Experience – Reflection – Action – Evaluation – Context

- Discernment activities
  - Adopt various Ignatian examens in your class or as options for student reflection (e.g., on consolation and desolation, attentiveness to who and what is “already there,” reverence to who or what is “other”).
- Problem-solving activities that employ the IPP

**TEACHING & LEARNING COMMUNITY:** Start early and continue through the year.

- Consider collaborating with **other faculty, staff, and students in your department** or for a particular class engage in a common Day 1 activity in your classes.
- Consider collaborating with a **colleague in a different department or unit** on campus to plan a Day 1 activity.
- Consider **scheduling a 1:1 consultation** through the CTL and/or **attending sessions** hosted by different units on campus (e.g., Campus Ministry) to support your teaching and personal reflection on this topic throughout the year.

## **RESOURCES**

[The Ignatian Year at Marquette](#)

[Universal Apostolic Preferences \(2019-2029\)](#)

[About Catholic, Intellectual Traditions](#)

[Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching](#)

[Additional Resources about Catholic Social Teaching](#)

[Fratelli Tutti: Pope Francis's 2020 Encyclical](#)

[Laudato Si: Pope Francis's 2015 Encyclical](#)

[Marquette's Mission and Guiding Values](#)

[Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm](#)

[Ignatian Pedagogy A Practical Approach](#)

[Ignatian Examen information](#)

[The Portal for Jesuit Studies](#)