Dr. Gloria Falcao Dodd, Director of Academic Programs

Founded by the Marianists of the University of Dayton, the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute has the universal mission to make the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ, better known, loved and served. This global, scholarly and pastoral privilege is fulfilled above all through the operation of the Marian Library, founded in 1943 and today recognized as the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of printed materials on the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as through the International Marian Research Institute (IMRI).

The International Marian Research Institute was established in 1975 at the University of Dayton in affiliation with the Pontifical Theological Faculty Marianum in Rome.

Master’s Degree In Theological Studies

The University of Dayton offers in joint venture with the IMRI a master’s degree in Theological Studies with a Marian concentration. The concentration in Marian Studies is available for those who take a minimum of twelve hours up to a maximum of sixteen hours of specially designated courses in Marian disciplines.

Certificate In Marian Studies

A Certificate Program is available for qualified students who do not wish to pursue the full rigor of a graduate-level degree program, or who may be lacking in some of the basic requirements for admission into such a program. The Certificate Program involves basic courses (thirty quarter credits) giving a broad foundation in the study of Mariology and the writing of a research paper or project. The research paper (thirty pages) is elaborated under the direction of a moderator and must be original.

The Certificate Program is available as a guided studies program. Courses must be completed by the end of the summer term 2019.

Courses

MRI 600. Introduction to Mariology. 1 Hour
Designed for students who are new to the program or who simply have an interest in Mariology, this course explores the basic Marian issues within the framework of contemporary theology and emphasizes the major developments in Mariology since Vatican II.

MRI 601. Research & Bibliography. 1 Hour
This course introduces students to the resources and bibliography for theological studies, with attention to research in Mariology. It offers suggestions for organization and information management.

MRI 602. Methods in Theology. 1 Hour
This course deals with various methods used in the study of contemporary theology. It points to their specific focus and philosophical foundation, as well as to advantages and limitations. Their application to research in Mariology will be examined.

MRI 603. Monographic Study of Marian Text. 1 Hour
This course leads the student to the understanding of Marian texts of various periods, genres, literary styles, and contents. The focus of this course will be a guided reading.

MRI 610. Mary & the Old Testament. 3 Hours
This course studies the principal Old Testament texts with reference to the history of salvation. A special emphasis will be given to the Protoevangelium, symbols and types such as New Eve, Hannah, Daughter of Zion, Ark of the Covenant, etc. The course will further show the impact that some of these symbols and figures had on the New Testament and the apocryphal literature.

MRI 611. Mary in the New Testament. 3 Hours
Study of the principal New Testament texts with reference to Mary as person, as Mother of the Redeemer, as figure of the Church, and associate of Christ in the history of salvation.

MRI 612. Mary & the Apocrypha. 3 Hours
Study of the place and role of Mary in the apocryphal literature of the Old and New Testament, this course prepares students for the understanding of Marian symbols and topics in devotion, religious culture, and art.

MRI 620. Christ in Patristics. 3 Hours
Study of selected patristic texts regarding the person and redemptive work of Christ.

MRI 621. Church in Patristics. 3 Hours
Study of selected patristic texts regarding the Church as instrument and sacrament of salvation.

MRI 622. Mary in Patristics. 3 Hours
Study of initial developments of Marian doctrine and devotion in Greek, Latin, and Oriental patristics.

MRI 625. Mary in the Medieval Period I. 3 Hours
Study of the development of Mariology from the 7th century to the 12th century: Marian doctrines, Marian devotions, Mary in art and liturgy, Marian feasts, and principal Marian literary works.

MRI 626. Mary in the Medieval Period II. 3 Hours
Study of the development of Mariology from the 12th century to the Renaissance: Marian doctrines, Marian devotions, Mary in art and liturgy, Marian feasts, and principal Marian literary works.

MRI 627. Mary in the Modern Period I. 3 Hours
Developments in Marian devotion, liturgy, and doctrine are traced from the late medieval period, through the Reformation, Tridentine, Counter Reformation and the Baroque periods, as well as in the Byzantine writers, the early missionary movement, Jansenism, and the French School of Spirituality.

MRI 628. Mary in the Modern Period II. 3 Hours
Developments in Marian devotion, liturgy, and doctrine traced through the 18th century Enlightenment, the French Revolution and the Catholic Restoration, as well as the 19th century theologians (Newman, Scheeben, Terrien), the Scholastic revival, the Mariological Movement, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and the significance of the Marian Apparitions.

MRI 629. Mary in the Contemporary Period I. 3 Hours
Study of the development in Marian doctrine, devotion, and culture from the beginning of the 20th century to the eve of the Second Vatican Council.
MRI 630. Mary in the Contemporary Period II. 3 Hours
Study of the teaching of Vatican II about the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially in chapter VIII of Lumen Gentium and its implications and developments in contemporary Marian doctrine and devotion. The study includes magisterial pronouncements, theological reflection, and historical developments in Marian thinking since Vatican II.

MRI 631. Marian Doctrine. 3 Hours
Historical, theological, and anthropological study of the principal Marian doctrines: Divine maternity, Virginity, Immaculate Conception, and Assumption. Special emphasis is given to the meaning and importance of dogma, as well as to the study of the question of Mary’s spiritual maternity, intercession, and mediation.

MRI 632. Marian Spirituality. 3 Hours
This course studies the various historical expressions and methods of Marian spirituality, Mary’s role as model of Christian spirituality and devotion, her virtues, and her active presence in the life of the Church and that of the faithful.

MRI 633. Mary in the Liturgy. 3 Hours
This course studies the importance and significance of Mary’s presence in the mysteries of Jesus Christ celebrated throughout the liturgical year as well as their influence on Marian doctrine, spirituality, and devotion through the centuries.

MRI 634. Mary & the Church. 3 Hours
Not the least of Vatican II’s merits was to point out Mary’s place at the heart of the Church. In reassessing the Mary-Church relationship the Council retrieved a Patristic theme of great importance. This course attempts to explore the Mary-Church theme from both a historical and doctrinal point of view. It will also highlight some pastoral aspects.

MRI 635. Mary in the Media. 1 Hour
This course attempts to situate Mary’s place and role in a fruitful exchange between religions and the Christian message. Asian religions and philosophies have had great impact on Christianity. Mary’s cultural role is undisputed. Thus, how did her person and mission influence social history? What was her role in the history of ideas, of laws and customs, values, and fashion? Where and how is the impact of her presence noticeable? How does the Church deal with it?

MRI 636. Mary in Ecumenism. 3 Hours
This course proposes the study of Mary and her place in the Church and related questions as seen by the various Christian and other religious traditions.

MRI 637. Mary & Theology & Anthropology. 3 Hours
This course presents an anthropological approach to the understanding of Mary and examines its challenges and limitations in light of a theological study of the human person as paradox and mystery. Special emphasis is given to the relationship between theological anthropology and Marian dogmas.

MRI 640. Ecclesiology. 3 Hours
While giving special attention to the writings of major theologians regarding their understanding of the Church, this course also studies recent developments in African, Asian, Latin American and North Atlantic ecclesiologies. It will discuss the relationship between the Church as mystery and historical reality.

MRI 641. Christology. 3 Hours
Study of the scriptural foundations, the doctrinal developments and accompanying theological reflection about Jesus Christ’s person and mission. Various christological developments of recent times are examined as to their doctrinal content and pastoral significance.

MRI 642. Spirituality. 3 Hours
Study of historical and systematic aspects of Christian spirituality, this course includes the presentation of various schools of spirituality, with special emphasis on the French School of spirituality. It also attempts an evaluation of contemporary trends in spirituality.

MRI 650. Special Marian Topics. 1 Hour
Study of a particular contemporary Marian topic or question: Marian apparitions, Mary and Feminism, Mary and Liberation Theology, etc.