

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF COURSE & TEACHING
COMMENTS

1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.

- probing the worldviews of modern philosophy in comparison with Catholic doctrine. I was really able to see how and why worldviews of modern philosophy originated.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

- spend less time going over the same point several times
- class time was often cutting some of the topics short
- some of ~~the~~ examples used were rather inappropriate for the classroom, and several times inappropriate language was used.

3. Other general comments:

- Overall, I have gained a great deal from this course, and find the reading well-balanced

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I learned that all personal and social problems arise from a disrespect or ignorance of the truly mysterious dignity of the human person. To solve world problems the problems present in the individual must first be understood.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

I wish we had more class time. It always felt like the class ended in the middle of a heated and interesting lesson.

3. Other general comments:

I really appreciate the dedication to the students and the time and effort that Dr. Smith puts in. His long hours spent outside the classroom enrich the course and give students an example of a leader of faith and morals.

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THEO-4374-A
Mod Challenges to Christianity
Smith, Randall Brian

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Understanding the concepts of
the human person and
what make people think the
way they do in society.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Entirely too much reading and questions to answer,
but NOT enough questions on tests with ^{to provide} short
essays.

3. Other general comments:

NA

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1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.

I have learned that I have study habits that are extremely lacking. I don't prepare well for tests. I have also read a great deal of very interesting material and was given a chance to think critically about my faith and culture.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Maybe a paper to help save my grade. I'm a better paper writer than test taker.

3. Other general comments:

I know my grade may not really reflect this, however, I did learn a great deal and enjoyed the class very much.

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The real world today

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

less questions & being more focus on each material.

3. Other general comments:

Swear & curse are not appropriate in theology course.
such as: S, h...

Thank you for your efforts and time Dr. Smith.
Have a wonderful Summer vacation

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Insite into Pope John Paul II theology against modern challenges to Christianity.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

I would not do quizzes. They take up class time, and the questions asked are so specific that even when I do read they are ineffective at relaying that. Take off points if a student cannot answer your question in discussion.

I would leave out Romano Guardini and do two weeks on issues like Abortion, Euthanasia, Contraception, Politics one issue per class. We were most engaged in and out of class when you touched on these.

3. Other general comments:

Dr. Smith did an excellent job as a theologian to help us understand the church and Papal procedures during the death of JP II.

Give Dr. Smith a raise he is one of your
best teachers!

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1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.

I have gained many things from this class, especially a greater understanding of ~~the~~ challenges I face and why I face them. I also have a greater faith ~~in~~ in my religion and better understanding of certain principles I didn't understand before.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

I wouldn't change anything, except I would like to have received my grades back to know my status and how I'm doing. Prof. Smith is a very energetic teacher and ~~just~~ greatly interested in the course and its material.

3. Other general comments:

NA

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2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

- less reading; the amount of reading assigned should be manageable/ reasonable; taking into consideration students have other classes as well.
- more structured lectures which don't necessarily always have to abide by the structure of the book.
- less straying off topic

3. Other general comments:

- Instructor does well to address student questions, applying material / concepts to real life situations.

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- the readings were good

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

- need to touch more on 12 tough issues,
~~just suggestion~~
just my suggestion

3. Other general comments:

~~Also~~ over all good
Thank you Dr. Smith

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1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.

I have strengthened my faith because most of the objections or problems I had with Catholicism ~~are~~ were not necessarily matters of truth as taught in other theology courses but matters of the faith in relation to contemporary modern society.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

no journals

3. Other general comments:

Prof. Smith is an excellent professor, that keeps the class interesting, fun but is too hard on the tests.

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Lots of reading is supposed to make you learn apparently.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Way too much reading. Most of us have 3 or more other classes that require time and reading also.

3. Other general comments:

The professor was a good lecturer, but he always kept his late. Some of us have class afterwards. Also, too much reading is required. I know it's a 4000 level course, but a 100 pages a night is a bit much.

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better knowledge and understanding of
the Pope John Paul's teachings,
and other philosophical + theological
ideas.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Fewer text → really good texts, but just too many!
Spend more time on fewer texts, instead of
rushing through so many great books.

3. Other general comments:

AWESOME course!

Professor is great, open to discussions in class,
wonderful class and professor!

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learned new things about the catholic church.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Too much reading. would much rather prefer to read less books and get a deeper understanding of each, instead of reading many ~~books~~ books w/ a quick overview.

3. Other general comments:

Great teacher! Enthusiastic about subject.

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Added a lot to my life as
a Catholic - a better person
because of this class

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

3. Other general comments:

a difficult class because
of amount of work & depth
of work but all worth it!

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1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.

Learned to think critically of life's most important questions. Learned a lot about what humanity is all about.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

- TOO MUCH INFORMATION, not enough time to fully cover all material for exams.
- Went over class time every single time, caused late arrival to next job.
- UNORGANIZED.

3. Other general comments:

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2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

The fact that in the 1st test we had so many questions and little time. Notes is essential for the course and taking time to discuss other things is not very important → could change for future.

3. Other general comments:

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All the information was interesting.
The books were very good.

- 2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?**

More organization & be able to
cover more info. during the class period.

- 3. Other general comments:**

Best class this semester!!

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I learned a lot more about the Church and Catholic religion. Thanks.

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

You seemed too narrow road. When other students would ask questions to broaden it, you would steer them back into the narrow road.

3. Other general comments:

Good teacher. The only thing is you should concentrate more on what we learned instead of what we've just memorized.

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2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

3. Other general comments:

Please don't make your students buy

so many books unless you

actually plan on using them, or
at least figure it out before the bookstore refuses to
sell them back.

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A good understanding of the modern world

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

less material

3. Other general comments:

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Self-Knowledge as a key to
religion

2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

Less reading and more time
to discuss ^{fewer} concepts in class
rather than even more reading and
more concepts

3. Other general comments:

Good class, makes you think about
yourself, the world, religion.

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2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?

3. Other general comments:

I like your lecture on marriage and love.