

Spring 2007  
HNRS-1392-A  
From Empire to Christendom  
Smith, Randall Brian

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.

So much! Good class, good program  
articulation, and that I should never drink. :)  
much intellectualism + ~~and~~ rationalizing

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

Class discussion was not as effective as  
I felt it could have been, also lecturing is great  
but if we are going to have a Socratic method  
course, either class time needs to be more discussion  
oriented or the time period needs to  
be longer.

3. Other general comments:

Fun class! I ♥ Honors

Good to speak with professors @ lunch and  
outside of class

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I learned alot, I read many new texts and saw how they were connected.

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

I think the course could have gone much better, it took a while for us to ~~get~~ pull things together but I am not sure that under the circumstances things could have gone much better than they did.

3. Other general comments:

Dr. Smith is crazy cool

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I learned to read lots of text and ~~read~~ retain something

I also learned to apply the text to discussing problems/challenges in a reasonable way

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

More discussion, less lecture - it got better as the year went on, though

Maybe less reading - still a variety, but not as much of each thing

3. Other general comments:

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there are too many to list, less recall.

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

perhaps less readings (a bit less)

**3. Other general comments:**

it would used to your style of teaching, but often much self pity, than many more hours of preparation and studying, it came to a better understanding of the course.

EXCEPT FOR AOTHC!

too much information, especially on Tuesday night — the

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how to vent off annoying loud professors

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

I would change the professor completely b/c he does not follow anything in what really is the honors program.

He is too loud, obnoxious, rude, and annoying. He is not very helpful and sometimes offensive.

3. Other general comments:

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I learned that for one extreme example, there's always a counter, equally as extreme, example.

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

1. Respect Students
2. Answer Questions
3. End the false "free discussion" and let us examine the work in our own light, even if it isn't Catholicly founded.

**3. Other general comments:**

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- If you ask for help the professors will help.  
-

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

- They lecturing less, so we can talk more  
- I was unsure about how the grading worked on  
most of the papers/forums. It would be better if you  
could state what exactly you were looking for & how  
you were grading.

3. Other general comments:

- Review questions helped  
-

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How to think deductively ≠ argue like a lawyer

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

- 3. Other general comments:**



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The ideas that there is more to literature than just stories as well as the idea that my faith is one of both intellectual & faithful study.

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

Please understand that though we are Honors, we are human. The texts are already too much (though that's fine) so please don't expect amazing quizzes. Most of us have 4 other classes to juggle. ~~Also, be careful.~~

3. Other general comments:

You can come off as disrespectful. You even see it sometimes when you apologize. Think about the things you say.

I still highly respect you & hope to take you again, hopefully in a more lecture oriented class.

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-defend my arguments, or develop them better

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

-invite more discussion  
-ask more interpretative questions during seminar  
-invite people who don't talk to join discussion instead of  
it always being the same people

3. Other general comments:

-I like how he gave questions to study while reading +  
for the quiz

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• defending my own opinions

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

quieter

**3. Other general comments:**

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*I have learned that sometimes you can dig on a question  
to far.*

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

*Have them be more subtle and establish a better feeling  
of respect with the students along with better communication.*

3. Other general comments:

*FL*  
FIN GUY

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learned about christianity (catholicism) A LOT!

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

NOT MAKE IT SO CATHOLIC BASED; NOT HAVE QUIZZES  
EVERY TIME. RETURN ~~PAPERS~~ PAPERs SOONER.

**3. Other general comments:**

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The most valuable learning experience:

I learned never to back down. → you did a good job teaching this lesson.

I've also learned that many students in

this program don't understand life outside their box

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

I really like how you push us to stick w/ our view point, but it's really hard to make our points known sometimes b/c we don't get to finish our comments.

- 3. Other general comments:**

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THINK BEYOND IF YOU STRIVE

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

LESS ASSERTIVE

- 3. Other general comments:**

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I am beginning to understand the catholic faith.

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

- I do not like reading the gospels and reading an article about the same gospel. I would like to read the gospel, come up with my ~~own~~ own biases and understandings then come to class and discuss the text. I find having an article about the gospel prevents me from making my own opinion; I feel like my own opinion is wrong.
- I'd also like the class to be open to reading more Great books and ~~something~~ focusing on other religions during the same time period. The Empire was not as well ~~as~~ taught as the Christendom portions of the class.

3. Other general comments:

I am glad I took this class and am a part of Honors, I just want to discuss the readings more.



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

*Learning to compare different schools of thought and analyse them critically.*

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

- 3. Other general comments:**

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Loved Thomas Aquinas. It made faith more understandable, at least some principles.

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

at times it seemed there was little communication between teachers, this made it difficult to get accurate information on grading / study material.

3. Other general comments:

very passionate

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Giampietro CSB, Anthony Emile

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*Learning to compare different schools of thought and analyze  
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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:**

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I learned that the best way to understand a reading, concept, etc. is to talk not just to the professor; it is sometimes more helpful to talk to other students.

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

I would encourage respect of students themselves, their time, and a communication between professors.

3. Other general comments:

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I have gained one experience from this instructor and that is that <sup>if</sup> you have an instructor who puts you off drop his class. I did not drop the class but this professor so put me off that I didn't show up for the rest of the semester.

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

I would change this instructor.

3. Other general comments:

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One should listen to others' opinions more sincerely.

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

Should listen to the students and not blow off what they have to say.

3. Other general comments: