

Fall 2007  
THEO-4325-A  
Faith and Moral Development  
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.**

A better understanding of how to live a better moral life and how the virtues play a big part.

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

Would change the paper books, too difficult and too boring to want to actually read or understand it.

**3. Other general comments:**

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**3. Other general comments:**

I didn't like that I would read the materials multiple times and feel confident about my answers and they were all counted wrong. I really didn't understand what you were looking for. I greatly admire you as a teacher and love how motivated you are when teaching. I just don't think I was able to think at the level you require. Best wishes to you Dr. Smith.

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

examination of 7 deadly sins &  
the cardinal virtues

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

enjoyed Fairlie. I found Pieper's  
text on the virtues harder  
to understand.

3. Other general comments:

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

- It was theology without feeling like theology (yay!)
- The virtues were kind of complicated

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

- ~~getting~~ getting our texts back faster
- not keeping us past 12:15 (set an alarm!)

3. Other general comments:

- I actually liked this class. Thanks!

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*A better understanding of the virtues and their compatibility in the contemporary world.*

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

*The weekly quizzes should be changed to more short answers.*

3. Other general comments:

*It was a very enjoyable experience in this class*

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

Dr. Smith is very knowledgeable and his lectures are always interesting and fun. The weekly quizzes, while maybe not too popular, are actually beneficial because they kept me on top of the readings, which helps keep me interested in the lectures.

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

- 3. Other general comments:**

You're awesome Dr. Smith! 😊

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

Great reading list  
animated lectures

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

I think more class discussion would be good. Dr. Smith sometimes tends to talk a little much. I wish we had gotten to the other Pieper book.

**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?

- Watch your use of time. I wish we could have gotten through more of the course readings (though that does not mean that I will not continue reading on my own!).
- Please update the syllabus or the website. Sometimes it is too hard to follow you!

3. Other general comments:

The professor is always respectful, even to students who have outrageous opinions! Loved the Fairlie book - keep it in the class! I always enjoy taking Dr. Smith's class and wish I could take more classes from him.



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I thought Fairlie's book was great and I really enjoyed reading it.

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

I would not change the amount of reading but guiding questions would be helpful for each ~~reading~~ reading section. What I find important did not always match what you found to be important & it would help to narrow the info down so we are all on the same page. Also, quizzes on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays make more sense b/c that way the material from Tues. & the new reading is fresh

3. Other general comments: in our minds. Having them on Tuesdays didn't make a whole lot of sense.

Great class!

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Prof. Smith rambles way too much! There is always class time wasted on something that has nothing to do with the course material. He goes off on weird tangents and then holds us 10 to 15 minutes after class is supposed to be over in order to finish up his lecture.

3. Other general comments:

~~There~~ There were comments made that were degrading to women which I did not appreciate. Also, the classroom was often cold and hard to concentrate in.

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I'm sure you have heard this before, too much reading!  
We didn't even get to the last book. Also, not  
a fan of papers but some other readings were  
enjoyable. Keep the website updated.  
The Reading Questions helped alot!

**3. Other general comments:**

Dr. Smith is a great professor and I  
really appreciate his passion for  
this class/material.

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He definitely showed me the importance of actually reading. And of developing the virtues.

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

Use the website earlier & more effectively! I would have liked some sort of website earlier on. But it was useful toward the middle of the class.

3. Other general comments:

I really enjoyed Fairies text, but not so much Pieper's:

I loved this class though, very interesting! And I will recommend! You aren't a tool!

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

Knowledge of the vices & virtues has proved  
more applicable to my life than any other  
course at the university

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

While the tangents are interesting & informative,  
it would be good if Dr. Smith controlled the  
direction a little more so we could have  
completed the course materials

3. Other general comments:

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- more practical applications of the virtues

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

- more organized schedule in terms of reading assignments + quizzes (so the students could prepare better); started out very organized with a great format (weekly reading/quizzes) but got disorganized + way behind schedule towards the end of the semester
- would have liked to have covered all 7 of those virtues instead of just 2

3. Other general comments:

- don't get rid of the quizzes; they kept me studying constantly + helped so much when preparing for tests!
- reading is not too much! - keep it up!!

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

The text, 1 deadly sins, along with class discussion was extremely helpful in bringing an awareness of their wrongdoings on individuals and humanity. Dr. Smith's lectures were very informative and interesting. He is very knowledgeable and uses great examples to get his point across.

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

3. Other general comments:

Dr. Smith is one of the Best faculty members at St. Thomas. He genuinely cares for his students and is very available to them. He is pretty much Awesome and I recommend him to everyone!! 😊

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

The instructor makes the class and material interesting. He deviates from the material and goes off in tangent. His class is fun.

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

The second book on the cardinal virtues seems to bring and hard to understand.

3. Other general comments:



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

The entire course made me think about my moral decisions more closely and how much it affects our daily lives.

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

Have a reading guide on the syllabus so students know what to read which days.

**3. Other general comments:**

Love the class. Prof. Smith is someone who is talking about and really seems to be passionate about what he teaches. Like how he gives personal experiences as examples.

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☺ learned/gained valuable insight into moral theology.

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

CLASS WASN'T FOCUSED ENOUGH. DR. SMITH HAD SO MUCH THAT HE WANTED TO CRAM INTO THIS SEMESTER, THAT I FELT HE LOST SIGHT OF MAKING SURE THAT WE ACTUALLY UNDERSTOOD THE MATERIAL. THE WHOLE ROUTE OF THE CLASS WAS EXTREMELY ADHD & I FELT THAT I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN MUCH MORE HAD THE SYLLABUS & ASSIGNMENTS BEEN MORE FOCUSED.

3. Other general comments:

I HAVE TO SAY DR. SMITH IS FULL OF ENERGY & HE HAS SO MUCH PERSONALITY. I CAN ALSO TELL THAT HE IS TRULY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES, WHICH IS WONDERFUL.

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The most valuable learning experience I have gained from this course was my moral development. My faith, I always had, but I might like to add that this course definitely made it stronger; the course also made me realize that I had a lot of changes I needed to make & thus drove me to ask questions & know that I can change.

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

At times I didn't want to pay attention to the lecture b/c the class was so long but I realize that the <sup>development of me</sup> writers help a person be more understanding. ~~& atten~~

3. Other general comments:

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\*"A theology class on Moral Development will not make you a moral person."  
Similarly I think that his lesson in this extends to many other organizations such as church, simply learning "the values" is not enough, you must practice them.

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

More questions would help but questions with definitive answers. Some of the guided questions were very vague and ambiguous.

3. Other general comments:

He is the craziest professor I have ever had in all my 15 years of schooling. However his passion about theology and the virtues trigger passion among his students providing lessons we will not soon forget 😊

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Houston apparently has crazy tree  
decorating techniques :-

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

I loved the seven deadly sins of Today  
book & how Pro. Smith presented the content.  
I really disliked the Victor's book. Maybe post  
questions to all the readings.

3. Other general comments:

Professor Smith, you did a wonderful job in this  
course. I really looked forward to your class  
& I would highly recommend you to my classmates  
Thank you for a great semester.

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

Most valuable experience was being able to read the course materials and understand how they related to my life and who I want to become in the future.

For example, Faults & deadly sins - helped me to identify some things in my life that I never ~~know~~ know were harmful to my character.

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

- That he not answer a question in thirty minutes. <sup>too long</sup> →  
Although he has made it a point to tell the class that we should respect the means ~~by which~~ by which he gets to the answer as well as the answer itself, it would make class a little more efficient to get through.

3. Other general comments:

Great class that has indeed taught me a lot about faith and moral development. Professor Smith is also a great reason why I enjoyed the class so much. ☺

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the reading + the teacher's enthusiasm

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

The nature of the course material while it should and was handled with objectivity/rationality, it ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> missing a subjective component. Emotions drive interest which drive learning. I think something that made the class weak was the lack of any subjective criterion. I think instead of weekly quizzes, a great alternative would be journals. I was interested despite of this obvious omission, but I think the class could be

3. Other general comments:

stronger if students were allowed an outlet to express how what they are learning makes them feel or how it applies to their life or lives of others they know. I took an amazing medicine in which, she gave us a prompt each class related to the material on which she graded each day with a simple -√, √, or +. In this way she could see how well we were →

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- 1. List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course and this instructor.**  
The subject matter was wonderful and enlightening. The topics we covered are fascinating. Also, I got to see how a teacher (professor) can convey information in such a way as to engage the class and never have a dull moment.
- 2. What would you change about this course and/or this instructor to make them more effective?**  
If you are going to have a website, keep up with it. Also, if you are going to have reading quizzes that involve memorizing specific words from the reading and writing them down on the quiz, either make the amount of reading smaller or make questions for the reading. It is nearly impossible for some to remember everything.
- 3. Other general comments:**  
I am sorry if this part is rude... I believe that blunt honesty works best. I feel embarrassed for Dr. Smith when he raises his arms and he has huge pit stains. I guess he is so use to it that it does not bother him any more but I still consider it embarrassing. Otherwise, he is a wonderful teacher and I wish to take more classes with him.



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I really enjoyed learning the way our society lives out <sup>the</sup> even deadly sins. Sometimes I find myself thinking on what we have learned in class and the way I live my life.

I really enjoy the stories/anecdotes shared because it connected what we were learning to real life/real experiences.

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

Sometimes I do find the course a little disorganized not knowing what to study or how to make sense of some of the material. I did not enjoy our second book as much as the first, but it was still interesting (some of the things I could not make sense out of).

3. Other general comments:

Overall I enjoy the class and like the teacher's teaching method. Had him for Teachings and I found myself making connections to what I had learned in that class.