

Spring 2008  
THEO-2300-C THEO-3310-C  
Intro to the Sacred Scriptures  
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.

learning the importance  
and meaning behind  
the Sacred Scriptures

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

Lessen the  
amount of  
material to  
read.

3. Other general comments:

Class website / Questions  
extremely helpful!!

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To think critically about theology and understand ~~religious~~ Catholic understandings of theology.

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

To not let Smith teach it; his content is too repetitive, his lectures long-winded, and understanding of content is so complex it can be easily misunderstood and hard to remember (his tests aren't

3. Other general comments:

much over content, it's more over Smith's understanding of content). Smith also frequently crosses the bounds of professor/student and has made me feel uncomfortable and antagonized for being non-religious on numerous occasions. He openly offended me once in another class.

(more on back)

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The Bible is anything but literal. As long as the text is, if it were explained, it could go on forever.

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

—

3. Other general comments:

Professor Smith is the most knowledgeable professor I have encountered. He truly is inspired by the course material, and rather than drilling us, he wants us to know it because he believes in it. Great, great professor and person.

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

Less tangents!

**3. Other general comments:**

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I suppose I understand a little bit more about God and revelation but it was so much information to digest that a lot of it has gotten jumbled up.

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

I think the fact that we read so many things that did not seem relevant to the course was completely unnecessary and only made the class more stressful. Also, the professor talked too much about other things and was constantly going off track.

3. Other general comments:

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Better knowledge of theology & the Bible. other views of christianity.

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

The syllabus was way too long. Test ~~should~~ should be returned a bit ~~sooner~~, faster. A paper would be nice, just to help boost my grades. This professor should have more availability, at least be certain that he is going to be in his office or the coffee shop. He needs to respond to calls and emails.

3. Other general comments:

↑  
Other than Charismatic and fun! Fantastic teacher. Very  
would take him again!

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My knowledge of scripture has increased tremendously. Besides course content, I've learned the hard way that you need to keep us with reading, or it does reflect your on test grades.

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

Tends to get off topic, but when on topic is very insightful and knowledgeable about material.

- 3. Other general comments:**

Good class.

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I have learned a lot about my  
faith and the history of it ☺

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

Give us a break! Please don't put up  
90+ reading questions a week before final.

**3. Other general comments:**



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I share his passion of Theology. I loved his passion. Everything he said I soaked up and could talk to him for hours about this stuff.

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

Less reading questions and a little bit of time in class for discussion.

3. Other general comments:

I really like the professors class ever though there is a lot of reading. I took him again b/c of his passion & b/c he is a cool guy.

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I have learned time management, and my ability to read difficult articles has improved. I have also mastered the skill of reading 100's of pages, and skimming to find the most important part.

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

I would change how the questions for the test were posted only days before quiz/test. I would like extra time to do it. Some extra-credit would be nice too. ... ~~etc~~

**3. Other general comments:**

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I learned a lot & I am much more interested in theology after class with Prof. Smith

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

maybe less readings ☺ a little too much, and since we have other classes, ~~and~~ I didn't have much time to keep up with everything.

**3. Other general comments:**

I liked him and his class. He is very smart, was very professional and dedicated. I would recommend him to others and I would take him again.

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A better understanding and way of looking at and viewing the bible.

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

Take more time to talk about subject  
Since there was a lot to do, felt kind of rush, and he talks fast.

**3. Other general comments:**

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→ MORE smaller grades, I am a horrible test taker; I feel like I have learned a decent amount but I probably won't pass this class.

→ Don't explain/give same lecture several times, did you forget you said those exact things last time? Why take whole class period on same material again? Elaborate or add on or something?

Doesn't help if same thing, need different ways.

3. Other general comments:

I feel like I have learned general concepts but not specifics → too much material at one time, we are just "getting through it" not "learning" it, even w/ the extensive reading outside of class.

\* Good enthusiasm in class, tells us you are passionate about teaching and material.

\* Laughs & cursing is good way to get attention, - good job :)

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Knowledge of a subject not familiar with and now  
being able to use the knowledge to think  
critically on a subject that is very beneficial  
in a number of ways.

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

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3. Other general comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Learning how to read the Bible in the modern period is a challenge and having a knowledgeable professor to explain how to read and interpret the texts is inspiring. Mixing philosophical discussion together with theology is a big plus.

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

I would have liked to see my graded quizzes during the semester as we took so many of these — but we were only given a grade at the end for their average total. I was also troubled by the fact that there ~~was~~ was no research paper as part of the 3310 course, which I understood there would be for upper division course work <sup>1/2 credit</sup>. Finally, we should spend more time with a bible in our hands, and less time in the reader; seems like I read what everyone else has said about

3. Other general comments:

Scripture and nothing of my own.

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To hone my reading, comprehensive and writing skills.

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

I would suggest that the reading questions, of which there are many, be put on the web site in a timely manner. With that said, I believe this to be moot because now Professor Smith has this course "under his belt" so to speak & thus the course materials are prepared.

**3. Other general comments:**

Great Class - Fantastic teacher.



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*I learned many innumerable things in this class that helped me in life and in my living faith!*

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

*Make it longer!*

3. Other general comments:

*Awesome class! Would really recommend it. Dr. Smith is a great teacher, he knows what he is talking about and loves the topic. He is a motivator and an excellent theologian! God Bless!*

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More in depth about the readings of the Bible

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

Too much content in too little time.  
I would have learned much better if there was  
a little less readings. It is not so much about  
quantity as it is about quality... some of the  
readings were unnecessary

3. Other general comments:

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It made me look at issues greater than school  
& studies.

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

Very effective teaching methods. You truly get  
back what you put in. You can just blow the class  
off there is far too much presented each class  
period to do so.

- 3. Other general comments:**

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I learned that theology does not have to be boring.  
There are different angles to the Bible

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

Nothing really

**3. Other general comments:**

Very knowledgeable and enthusiastic Professor.  
Not the easiest, by far. But, an excellent learning experience.

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A different way of looking at the Bible, and a better understanding of the information and ~~to see~~ the connections that pervade the text, its lessons, and its message.

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

More class time, there is so much information and so little time to discuss it. There never seemed to be enough class time to really delve deeply into the material and openly discuss it.

3. Other general comments:

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- the Church's stance on evolution, it makes perfect sense, but I had never thought of it before, very interesting.
- Prof. Smith has always offered to help answer students' questions, no matter how long it takes!
- Having the many different readings about many different subjects, made the course very interesting, and not so tedious throughout the semester. They were very helpful, too!

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

- just the volume of material required for reading, it was kind of hard to keep up with the readings. We there were so many and we went so fast.

**3. Other general comments:**

Prof. Smith is great! Just the class is  
ALOT of work!

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

Everything. All lectures was great.

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

Less reading

**3. Other general comments:**

Very motivation Professor. He is great.

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

everything

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

~~nothing~~ not much; maybe stick to  
Syllabus dates, but that  
was understandable

3. Other general comments:

