Fall 2012 Full Survey 2012 Fall II 2012

University of St. Thomas Houston, Texas

Course:	THEO 3349 B - Christ and the Moral Life	Department:	Default
Responsible Faculty:	Dr. Randall Smith	Responses / Expected:	14 / 29



Stu	udent Evaluation Of Course			TI	HEO 33	49 B				Comparisons		
	urse:	Responses					Cou	ırse		AII		
		[AU]	[AM]	[BM]	[BM] [AE] S.D. Var. N Mean		Mean	Pct				
Q1	This course is:	10	0	4	0	.90	.82	14	3.43	3.03	78	
Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparisor								nparisons:	670 / 4,8	76		

Responses:

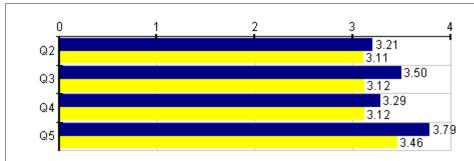
 $[{f AU}]$ a university core requirement = 4

[AM] a major or minor requirement = 3

[BM] both major and core requirement=2

[AE] an elective = 1

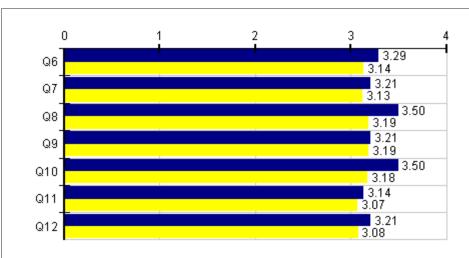
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)



Stu	tudent Evaluation Of Course			TH	IEO 3	349	В			Comparisons	
	dent Effort & Learning:	Responses					Cou	rse		AII	
		[U-]	[U-] [A-] [G-] [E-] S.D		S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	
Q2	My motivation to learn in this course was	0	3	5	6	.77	.60	14	3.21	3.11	51
Q3	My time and effort I invested in this course was	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.12	72
Q4	My preparation for examinations and assignments in this course was	0	1	8	5	.59	.35	14	3.29	3.12	59
Q 5	My attendance in this course was	0	0	3	11	.41	.17	14	3.79	3.46	75
Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparisons:								arisons:	670 / 4,8	384	

Responses:

- $[{f U-}]$ Unsatisfactory Not as good as most of my educational experiences = 1
- $[{f A-}]$ Average Is equivalent to most of my educational experiences = 2
- [G-] Good Better than most of my educational experiences = 3
- [E-] Excellent Better than almost all of my educational experiences = 4



Stud	ent Evaluation Of Course			TH	HEO 3	349	В			Comparisons	
Qual			Respo	onses			Cou	rse		AII	
		[U-]	[A -]	[G-]	[E-]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct
Q6	The organization of the course was	0	3	4	7	.80	.63	14	3.29	3.14	50
Q7	The course materials (e.g., texts & web sites) were	2	1	3	8	1.08	1.17	14	3.21	3.13	49
Q8	I would evaluate the course syllabus as	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.19	66
Q9	Grading procedures for the course were communicated to students in a manner that was	1	2	4	7	.94	.88	14	3.21	3.19	43
Q10	The university facilities for this course provided an environment for student learning that was	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.18	71
Q11	Compared to the time, effort, and money required, the benefits of this course were	0	4	4	6	.83	.69	14	3.14	3.07	48
Q12	I would describe this course to other students as being	0	4	3	7	.86	.74	14	3.21	3.08	49
	Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparisons:								668 / 4,8	371	

Responses:

- $\left[\textbf{U-}\right]$ Unsatisfactory Not as good as most of my educational experiences = 1
- $[{f A-}]$ Average Is equivalent to most of my educational experiences=2
- [G-] Good Better than most of my educational experiences = 3
- $\left[\textbf{E-}\right]$ Excellent Better than almost all of my educational experiences =4

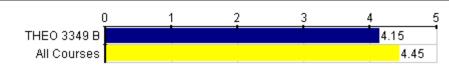
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)



Student Evaluation Of Course Recommendations:			TH	IEO 3	349 I	3			Comparisons	
		Responses					rse		All	
	[U-]	[A -]	[G -]	[E-]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct
Q13 I would recommend this course to other students as	s 0		3	7	.86	.74	14	3.21	3.09	48
Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparisons:								arisons:	670 / 4,8	361

Responses:

- [U-] Unsatisfactory Not as good as most of my educational experiences = 1
- $[\boldsymbol{A-}]$ Average Is equivalent to most of my educational experiences= 2
- [G-] Good Better than most of my educational experiences = 3
- $\mbox{[$\textbf{E}$-$]}$ Excellent Better than almost all of my educational experiences =4



Stud	Student Evaluation Of Course Grade:				THI		Comparisons					
			Res	pon	ses			Cou	rse		All	
		[F]	[D]	[C]	[B]	[A]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct
Q14	The grade that I am receiving in this course (as of today) is	0	0	1	9	3	.53	.28	13	4.15	4.45	21
Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparison								arisons:	665 / 4,	787		

Responses: [F] F=1 [D] D=2 [C] C=3 [B] B=4 [A] A=5 Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)



Student Evaluation Of Course			TI	HEO 3	349 B				Comparisons		
Course Difficulty:		Responses				Cou	rse		AII		
	[ME]	[T]	[HT]	[MH]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	
Q15 I would assess the difficulty of this course as	0	2	6	6	.70	.49	14	3.29	2.56	87	
Number of Courses / Survey Responses used for Comparison								arisons:	669 / 4,8	369	

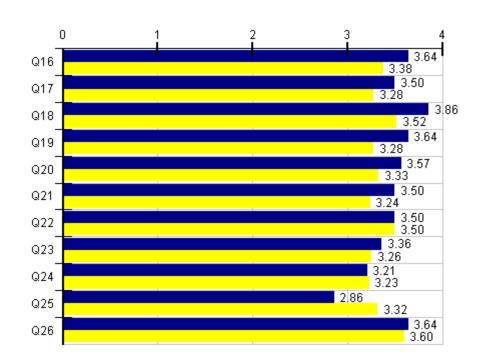
Responses:

 $[\textbf{ME}] \ \text{Much easier than other courses} = 1$

[T] About the same as other courses = 2

[HT] Harder than other courses = 3

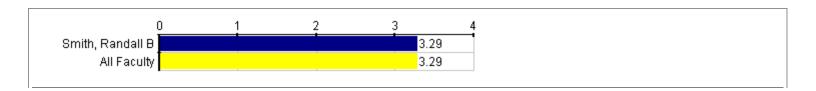
 $\left[\mbox{MH} \right]$ Much harder than other courses = 4



Stud	ent Evaluation of Teaching			Smi	th, R	anda	II B			Comparisons	
	tiveness		Resp	onses	;		Indiv	idua	al	AII	
		[U-]	[A -]	[G-]	[E-]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct
Q16	The instructor's preparation for classes was	0	0	5	9	.48	.23	14	3.64	3.38	60
Q17	Use of class time was	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.28	53
Q18	The demonstration of a depth of knowledge related to course content was	0	0	2	12	.35	.12	14	3.86	3.52	68
Q19	The ability to convey course information was	0	1	3	10	.61	.37	14	3.64	3.28	64
Q20	The ability to answer students' questions with clarity was	0	2	2	10	.73	.53	14	3.57	3.33	55
Q21	The ability to motivate me to think critically about course content was	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.24	54
Q22	The demonstration of respect for students in this class was	0	2	3	9	.73	.54	14	3.50	3.50	34
Q23	Evaluation of my work (tests & assignments) was	0	3	3	8	.81	.66	14	3.36	3.26	47
Q24	The instructor's return of my graded assignments was	0	4	3	7	.86	.74	14	3.21	3.23	41
Q25	The instructor's availability to students outside of class (e.g., office hours & help sessions) was	1	5	3	5	.99	.98	14	2.86	3.32	16
Q26	The instructor's interest in the course content was	0	2	1	11	.72	.52	14	3.64	3.60	39
	Number of Individual	ls / Su	ırvey	Respo	nses	used	for Co	ompa	arisons:	670 / 4,8	872

Responses:

- $[{f U-}]$ Unsatisfactory Not as good as most of my educational experiences = 1
- $\left[\textbf{A-}\right]$ Average Is equivalent to most of my educational experiences= 2
- [G-] Good Better than most of my educational experiences = 3
- $\left[\textbf{E-}\right]$ Excellent Better than almost all of my educational experiences =4



St	Student Evaluation of Teaching Recommendations:			Smi	th, R	andal	ΙB			Comparisons	
			Responses					idua	al	AII	
		[U -]	[A -]	[G -]	[E-]	S.D.	Var.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct
Q2	I would recommend this faculty member to other students as	0	3	4	7	.80	.63	14	3.29	3.29	39
	Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparison						arisons:	s: 669 / 4,847			

Responses:

- [U-] Unsatisfactory Not as good as most of my educational experiences = 1
- [A-] Average Is equivalent to most of my educational experiences = 2
- [G-] Good Better than most of my educational experiences = 3
- [E-] Excellent Better than almost all of my educational experiences = 4

Question:	List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this course.
Response Rate:	28.57% (4 of 14)

- God is not as complicated or mysterious as people think. He has clearly told us many things that we need to do to be happy in our lives.
- I learned a little bit more about time management due to having reading for every class and having to write summaries for the readings.
- A proper understanding of the Church's teaching on moral issues. Understanding the big picture as a whole and not just single items one at a time.
- I have learned to get more for my money, learned a lot of invaluable information about the Catholic faith, and learned of ways to apply my knowledge of the Faith to my own life.

Question:	What would you change about this course to make it more effective?
Response Rate:	64.29 % (9 of 14)

- I would have the readings more on a college level thinking depth. I have gotten better at the readings, but they were challenging. I had to get outside help and and rely on the outside help that I received to help me understand the material and write better and better executive summaries.
- 2 Offer more exams than just one mid term and one final.
- A lot of extraneous information found in the readings which made them frustrating. A more targeted approach would be excellent. Reduction in word minimum for summaries. If catechism includes what we are to learn in readings and the catechism is short it makes little sense for summary to be longer. Also reducing the minimum by about a hundred or so words would mean one printed page and not two. Paper would be saved.
- 4 Nothing.
- 5 It was very effective.
- 6 n/a
- 7 lighten to load of summaries
- There is a lot of reading in the class; I don't feel that we covered the reading to the extent that was needed. There was some stuff that was not quite covered as much as would need for the test.
- Nothing. I really think other courses offered at this school should be like this one course. This course was actually relevant to my life. Some of the other courses, I feel, are either too easy, too disorganized, or too theoretical.

Question:	Other general comments:
Response Rate:	28.57% (4 of 14)

- I found doing the executive summaries to be a very effective way of learing and understanding the readings. It also helped me to study for the exams by reading the summaries.
- This is the first college course (and I am a senior, might I add) that has felt like an actual college course. Yes, the workload was extreme, but I felt, for the first time, that I was getting my money's worth.

		_
3	N/A	
4	n/a	

Faculty:	Smith, Randall B
Question:	List the most valuable learning experiences you have gained from this instructor.
Response Rate:	50.00% (7 of 14)

- At first, Dr. Smith made me nervous. I did not know what to expect from him and what he would say next. After being in his class and trying to complete all of the assignments that he gave us, it was easier to get used to. He warmed up to the class and what we had to say. He was willing to share his personal life interactions to give the class an example of what he was trying to convey.
- 2 Be open minded, practical, and most of all keep it simple when you approach theological matters and questions.
- Again, this is the first class in which I've felt like a college student and I appreciate Professor Smith for pushing us all to the almost extreme.
- 4 I learned to look at things in views that not just black and white.

Dr. Smith has taught me how to work. I have worked harder in his class than any others before simply because of the amount of work assigned.

- He has also taught the material in a way in which makes it easy to apply to one's life. I feel like I have been inspired to become a better person outside the classroom for just listening to his lectures. I am very grateful to have had him teach me.
- His ability to relate pretty difficult moral issues to every day life. Making the material understandable and something that I can actually apply to my life. Very intellectually fruitful as well as spiritually.

You can tell he is on fire for the Faith. He takes questions that students are ambivalent about (fornication, abortion) and gives a good idea of what the Church teaches and why. I believe that the students in my class, though some of them don't agree with the Church's teaching, benefit from hearing the Catechism, its rationale behind its teaching, and how human life is intended towards flourishment. Prof. Smith is also understandable about late work or technical problems that prevent us from getting our assignments in on time. I've noticed that although this is one of the hardest courses I've taken at the school and that Prof. Smith's assignments are heavy and sometimes difficult, many students did not drop out of the class. He makes the Faith understandable through theological and secular readings tied to teachings of the Faith. I think the students like seeing both sides (secular and theological) because some express that the Church is too biased.

Facu	ty: Smith, Randall B
Quest	n: What would you change about this instructor to make them more effective?
Response R	te: 64.29% (9 of 14)

- Choose better readings that make more reasonable since to the college student. Stories, and certain book exerpts were better than the more deep articles that we had to read and respond to. I was able to connect to the stories more than the other documents.
- 2 Nothing. Dr. Smith is an excellent professer who clearly and effectively teaches about Christ and the moral life.
- 3 More conciseness please.
- 4 I think the lectures could be more note-taking friendly.
- To be more organized throughout the lecture. I am an auditory learner and so I learn best when the (verbal) lecture is structured in a manner that is easy to follow. He has such a great understanding of the material that he sets it up as an informal dialogue.
- 6 Nothing. It was great.
- **7** n/a
- 8 become more involved in web-based material for class
- **9** Nothing. I think we need to change other instructors.

Faculty:	Smith, Randall B
Question:	Other general comments:
Response Rate:	42.86% (6 of 14)

- I like that he has a course website that outlines all we have to do. I also think it's nice that he clarifies and reiterates the things we need to do for each class clearly, so that we don't get confused or lost.
- He gives us a huge amount of work to complete. His bulky requirements are key to fully understanding the content though. For a college course it is not a ridiculous request.
- 3 Awesome analogies every single class. I feel like you should be speaking at conferences and things. (If you're not already).
- 4 n/a
- 5 it's not practical to have office hours in a coffee house.

I've taken him for Intro to the Sacred Scriptures and I have to say that that class changed my life. It really challenged other college students, as well as myself, to ask fundamental questions like what is our purpose in life, why we want to be happy, how the Faith promises beatitude, etc. At the time, I was a freshman and I was trying to figure out those same questions for myself. I think every intro to Theology class needs to attack those fundamental questions and get students to actively reflect on their lives. If you want to reach them, you have to get personal and build off of what they already know. You have to meet them at whatever spiritual level they are at. I have taken other good Theology classes, but they seemed like history lessons in the end. I cannot recall much from those classes, but I remembered Prof. Smith and his class because it was meaningful to me. I think St. Thomas and its members would benefit from showing people that we really care about their well-being and that we want to know them. If you want to build characters of faith and leadership, you first have to show them how. The Church's teachings may not be that popular to this generation because people don't understand it, they are not exposed to the Faith in a kind and personal well, and they have the problem of not knowing why they are here or what is their ultimate destiny as persons.

UST --- Office of Institutional Assessment; --- Fall 2012 ---