

Memorandum

To: THRS Faculty
From: Karen Teel, THRS Assessment Coordinator
Date: October 4, 2011
Re: Senior Seminar Exit Survey Report for 2011

8 students completed exit surveys. The following summary was compiled by K. Teel. Faculty are invited and encouraged to read the originals (available on the website).

#12. Most beneficial courses: 116(x2), 382, 494 (Religious Peace Building), 369, 494 (Women, Islam, and Literature), 360, 383

#13. Least beneficial courses: 341(x3), 360, 321, 494 (Aquinas & Rahner), 343

#14. How to improve the major:

- More world religions (x3)
- Offer a course on Eastern Orthodox faith traditions
- More systematic/philosophical courses
- Make thesis optional
- Offer a course on faith development
- Add a research course
- Replace Christian Worship with Art/Theology elective
- Increase diversity; add course(s) on inter-religious dialogue
- Provide courses for majors/minors only

#15. Most positive experiences in THRS:

- Interactions with faculty who were great mentors & supportive of students (x6)
- World Religions; Jesus of Hollywood
- Thesis research

#16. Most negative experiences in THRS:

- Senior Seminar experience (x5)
- Experiences with some faculty
- N/A

#17. Ease or difficulty of major:

All but one of the students judged the major to be difficult or at least challenging. One student noted that “THRS challenges you to think outside the box—critical analytic.” The remaining student stated that with the exception of the seminar, a major could design a very easy path by

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choosing easy courses, and if the Senior Seminar were “dismissed,” the major would be very easy.

#18. Does your THRS major distinguish you from your friends with other majors:

Four students believed that their THRS major had prompted them to develop critical thinking and academic skills, to a greater extent than their friends; one did not believe his/her skills were superior.

One student thought her faith had grown in a way his/her friends’ had not.

One student thought THRS majors were more serious about their studies.

One student said that having learned to navigate “academic politics and personal feuds” was great preparation for graduate school.

#19. Describe your intellectual growth over your college experience:

All students perceived themselves to have grown significantly over their college years.