Saint Louis University

Classroom Visit Summary

Course Information

- Semester: [ ] Fall [ ] Spring
- Academic Year: __ 2013 __ - __ 2014 __
- Partner High School: St. Joseph's Academy
- High School Adjunct Instructor: E. Andrew Jendraszak
- SLU Course Title: Theological Foundations
- Subject: __THEO__
- Course Number: __100__
- Observation Date: __12__ / __13__ / __2013__
- Course Text: [ ] Same as on campus [ ] Approved by Liaison
- Syllabus: [ ] On File [ ] Available at visit [ ] Unavailable
- Mixed Enrollment: [ ] Yes [ ] No

Instructional Methodologies: Strengths and Concerns

Observations

Very approachable and engaging. Instead of having this class as a lecture style, has the students go through course work together in discussion format where he has them meet in a circle -- which works quite effectively. Nice use of anecdotes and humor throughout that keeps the students engaged (e.g., "what is good for the goose is good for the gander"). At the same time, does a great job managing student questions so that there is orderliness throughout the discussion.

Similarity to On-Campus offering: To what extent are this course section’s syllabus, aims, and content representative of an on-campus offering

Andrew was actually going through MLK's "Letters from a Birmingham Jail" the day of the observation -- the same material that I covered in my THEO100 at SLU several weeks prior. He did a great job of walking them through the text, highlighting the main sections as points of discussion.

What I was especially pleased with was when Andrew combed through the text and when significant names or technical terms emerged, he was very good about checking back with the students re: whether they were familiar with those specific personages or terms. And he did so in such a way that when students who were not familiar did not feel embarrassed...he has really fostered a very safe and inviting learning environment.

Andrew demonstrated a strong command of the assigned text and its background.

Student Involvement: What are your impressions of student interest and involvement?

They are very engaged in their interaction with Andrew. Their respect for him is quite palpable! They ask tons of questions... and he is quite comfortable and conversational interacting with them. At the same time, he is able to manage their excitement level throughout by bringing them back to focus.

Students really look at the text in-depth, asking very detailed questions re: points in the text. This is something that any college professor would envy -- instead of having to manufacture participation. I was impressed by the honest comments and reflections that the students were willing to pose throughout the discussion -- this is a real testament to Andrew fostering a classroom environment that rivals that of a college classroom where students have the intellectual liberty and freedom (within the bounds of respect, that is) to share what they are thinking.

Also impressive was the students use of laptops in class -- and stayed totally on task! Again, there is a sense of trust he has instilled with them in their use of this often distracting technology.
Student Assessment: Are the depth and rigor of assessments equivalent to on-campus offerings?
Please request to review some assessments for this course section.

Yes. Andrew implements assessments throughout the semester to gauge the students' progress: unit tests, synthetic essays, daily quizzes, and participation.

Instructor’s marking and grading: Does the instructor seem comfortable evaluating student work?
He does. It does not seem that Andrew has any problem providing feedback to his students!

If you had the opportunity to address the class were there any comments/questions?
We are particularly interested in items pertaining to 1818ACC policies, procedures, or practices.
No....they seem to be very happy with the quality of the course!

Additional Comments
Excellent teacher for the THEO100 1818 Foundations course!

Visit Summary
Is the course section consistent with an on-campus offering:  Yes    No

Please indicate if the Syllabus contains the content below:

Descriptive overview of the course:  Yes    No
Learning outcomes:  Yes    No
Assessments:  Yes    No
Calendar of due dates:  Yes    No
1818 ACC’s academic honesty statement:  Yes    No
Grading rubric:  Yes    No

SLU Departmental Liaison Signature:  Noël Pretila    Date:  12.13.2013