- 1. Students completing the Perspectives in Western Culture course will be able to intelligently discuss the original works and central ideas from a wide range of ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophers and theologians of the Western cultural tradition.
- 2. Students will demonstrate an ability to closely read, interpret, and explain ideas found in major philosophical and theological texts. Additionally, they will be able to discuss important connections between these thinkers and texts.
- 3. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate some of the principles that guid their ethical choices and to identify the intellectual roots of those principles.
- 4. Students will be able to write clear, well-reasoned essays on theological and philosophical topics.
- 5. Students will demonstrate an ability to think and speak critically about questions of the ultimate meanings and principles of their own lives, and will have a ofy philosophicald theologi cal apprhes toh9i.question humand iritual reaies.



Learning outcomes are accessible via the Philosophy and Theology Department web sites and a

instrument is administered at the beginning and end of the course, which assesses a number of variables related to learning outcomes a randomly selected sample of final essays will be gathered by the Director of the Program and analyzed to anBn0 g0 (anBn0 g0 (anBn0 g0 (anBn0.0000092B4Bn0ci0ci3mE4 Tivy) (s w)-4B

Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?

The Director of the Perspectives Program will appoint a panel of Philosophy and Theology faculty who have background and experience in data analysis to review the findings of the quantitative surveys. This faculty panel will present its findings to the Perspectives faculty in a dedicated session of the program's annual May Workshop. Additionally, the Director will appoint a committee of faculty representatives from both the Philosophy and Theology Departments to read and summarize the randomly selected sample of final essays. The panel will evaluate these reflections as they relate to learning outcomes and will report these findings to the Perspectives faculty at the annual May workshop.

What changes have been made as a result of using the data/evidence?

The quantitative survey and essay evaluations used for data collection have recently been developed. Therefore, results of this data are yet to be determined. For the past 20 years, the Perspectives faculty has used dedicated sessions in the three-day May workshops to discuss and make changes to the curriculum. Decisions about these curricular changes result from faculty consensus regarding classroom experiences and course outcomes. These sessions have been a wonderful experience of faculty sharing their experiences of helping students to appropriate the material and themes of the course more richly. The evaluative measures we've now put in place will serve to formalize aspects of this process.

The faculty looks forward to the findings of the evaluations to show more explicitly the extent to which the goals and learning outcomes of the program are achieved.

The Program was reviewed as part of a self-study within the Philosophy Department Review process in Spring, 2010.