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| **ROSEMONT COLLEGE**  Yearly Discipline Assessment Report    **Discipline:** Theology and Religious Studies  **Discipline Coordinator: Francis Klose**  Name: Phone: ext 2350 Email: francis.klose@rosemont.edu  **Date Submitted:** | | | |
| **Mission Statement 2016**: *Rosemont College is a community of lifelong learners dedicated to academic excellence and fostering joy in the pursuit of knowledge. Rosemont College seeks to develop in all members of the community open and critical minds, the ability to make reasoned moral decisions, and a sense of responsibility to serve others in our global society.*  *Rooted in Catholicism, Rosemont welcomes all faiths and is guided by the principles of Cornelia Connelly and the Society of the holy Child Jesus to meet the needs of the time. Rosemont College values: Trust in and reverence for the dignity of each person; Diversity with a commitment to building an international community; Persistence and courage in promoting justice with compassion; Care for the Earth as our common home.*  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  **PART A:**  INSTRUCTIONS**:** Save this form as a Word file. Please fill in the fields below; they will expand as you type. You may separate out majors and non-majors in your descriptions of outcomes. Then fill in Part B. Return to the Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment by June 30th. | | | |
| **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes** | **Courses taught during year assessing the objective/outcome** | **Results of Assessment (include majors and non-majors in the classes)** | **Planned Improvements Based on Assessment (List here; elaborate in Part B below)** |
| **Goal 1:** Theology and Religious Studies Majors will be critically conversant in the ways in which the Catholic Christian tradition is committed to the intellectual, spiritual and moral growth of all people and to a respectful engagement with the world’s religious traditions and their commitment to human flourishing.  **Objective:** develop a critical understanding of the religious traditions and theological reflections that shape the contemporary world.  **Outcome:** understand the basic texts, traditions, questions and values of religious traditions and theological reflections. | RST 102: Humanity’s Search for Meaning  RST 105: Understanding the Bible  RST 122: Religion in America  RST 124: World Religions  RST 175: The Holocaust | Previous improvements to RST 102, including the rename to “Humanity’s Search for Meaning”, are working well. The course aligns well with the goals.  World Religions is in need of a new textbook. The previously-used book is out of print; free library resources are not necessarily a direct fit.  The Spring semester marked the first offering of RST 175: The Holocaust. The course was numbered among the religious diversity courses for the first time since being re-introduced. This helped set the Core Curriculum up to fit into the REL and THE categories.  Religion in America was only offered online this academic year. The OER textbook works well for the online class. Previously, we took note that the face-to-face course could perhaps work better if divided by religion, rather than coming in chronological form.  Understanding the Bible is “diverse” in that the Bible appeals to Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and other Christian Traditions. We are currently considering whether this is enough. | Much of previous plan was retained in the Core Curriculum application (pending)  Continue to look for a World Religions text during the Fall semester. Another possibility: work with local faculty to compose a basic text.  Re-evaluate the Spring Semester course before the Core Curriculum submission in the Fall semester to look for opportunities to improve.  Consider this during the Core Curriculum application, to be submitted in the Fall of 2023.  Consider a wide variety of Sacred Texts beyond the Bible prior to the submission of the Core Curriculum proposal to be submitted in Fall of 2023. |
| **Goal 2:** Theology and Religious Studies Majors will reflect an awareness of issues and questions of justice on personal, social, civic and religious levels in the world.  **Objective**: articulate the meaning of social responsibility in light of religious faith, with special emphasis on the perspectives of peoples from historically and culturally under-represented groups.  **Outcome:** demonstrate connections between his/her experience and/or awareness of commitments to faith and justice. | RST 200: Catholic Intellectual Tradition  RST 210: Meaning of Christ  RST 233: Catholic Social Justice Tradition | The Church in the Modern World was proposed to be used in the 2022-2023 academic year. The section scheduled for Spring of 2023 was canceled due to the college falling short of enrollment goals for the 2022-2023 academic year. This was a revision to RST 215: Dynamics of the Church.  RST 200: Catholic Intellectual Tradition began using Library full-text resources. These were particularly helpful for online sections as students had all resources from day one. | The course is being submitted for Core Curriculum review early Summer 2023.  Early results are good; standardizing texts across instructors might be helpful. Consider this with Core Curriculum application. |
| **Goal 3**  Theology and Religious Studies Majors will demonstrate an ability to integrate understandings of religious experience and theological reflection across disciplines and traditions in a way that is critically oriented to the good of culture and society.  **Objective**: reflect theologically on the nature and implications of religious faith.  **Outcome:** develop an awareness of one’s personal understanding of meaning and purpose as it pertains to the theological sources explored in coursework.  **Outcome:** articulate the impact of theological reflection on the lives of  individuals and communities today, with special emphasis on ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and commitments. | RST 202: Black Catholicism  RST 250: Christian Ethics  RST 318: Women in Religion  RST 345: Sports and Spirituality  RST 400: Research Seminar | Women in Religion was offered for the first time as RST 318 in the Fall 2022 semester. The course was offered fully-online, with the instructor relocating away from Rosemont. Students report that the course was challenging but worthwhile.  Sports and Spirituality has become an annual offering, since it supports the Sports Management and Marketing major as an in-major elective.  The RST 400: Research Seminar course was offered for the first time in at least four years, with two students graduating. With no in-department data available, the course was modeled after other disciplines, including History and English. | The online offering allowed some students to participate in the course that were previously unable to do so. Consider the discipline minors in scheduling this course so as not to conflict with student major offerings.  Consider extending this course to SGPS as an elective course. We had enrollment of 10; perhaps some professional studies students would enjoy it.  Remove the comprehensive exam from this course; the thesis assignment proved to be sufficient within itself, while other disciplines have moved past the comprehensive exam. |

**Part B: (Please use the space available to elaborate)**

List planned improvements here Timeline for planned improvement Reasons for change and desired results?

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| 1. Continue searching for 300-level courses that will interest minors, majors, and most importantly, continue to support departmental Goal 3. This could come with a rewrite of the Christian Spirituality course, currently listed as RST 216. Look at courses dropped from the catalog. 2. As courses are submitted for inclusion in the Wants of the Age Core Curriculum, assess their standing with the three departmental goals. 3. Drop the requirement for a comprehensive exam for majors. With a significant research project expected from students in the research seminar that assesses all of the departmental goals, having the comprehensive exam proved to be redundant. 4. Carefully study the offerings to ensure that RST minors have courses that are available to them. | Ongoing. Consider a four-course 300-level rotation to offer to RST minors. Sports and Spirituality currently runs every Spring, as it helps support the Sports Management and Marketing minor.  Ongoing; courses for the Fall are being submitted early Summer 2023; courses for the Spring will be submitted early Fall.  With no majors in the pipeline, this need not occur during the 2023-2024 academic year. This item can be further down the list of improvements.  Fall 2023. | Many courses have been dropped from the catalog due to inactivity. It may be time to see what fits and what is a candidate to be archived.  The introduction of the Core Curriculum has helped create this conversation.  Redundant with the written thesis in the Research Seminar course. Other disciplines in the Humanities Division have dropped this requirement.  Under-enrolled RST 322 for Fall 2023; the course was offered in a prime morning slot and students interested indicated that there was a conflict with their major courses. |

List previous plans here Status of planned improvement Evidence of changes in student learning

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| 1. Consider a re-application of scripture courses; the foundational Understanding the Bible course might accomplish 100-level goals than the Old Testament course, which is perhaps of difficulty to the introductory student 2. Consider a 300-level Hebrew Scriptures course for RST majors 3. Consider a course re-name for RST 200 to connect it directly to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition that the course is about. 4. Keep the RST 233 Catholic Social Justice Tradition course in the rotation regularly; given the program outcomes and the mission of the Rosemont College, the course works well to meet these goals. 5. In the revision of RST 200, be sure that the plan for the course includes key texts from the Second Vatican Council that address the universality of the Church and current issues in the world. 6. Records indicate that RST 215H was added as an honors course just the year before. The next couple 200-level honors offerings. Consider waiting to offer the course until a thorough assessment can be done. 7. Explore a course related to a Theology of creation/sustainability, the papacy of Pope Francis (and related encyclicals), and Theological ethics in health care. | The Old Testament and New Testament courses have been archived. The status of RST 105: Understanding the Bible will be reconsidered upon application for the Core Curriculum  This is tabled for now.  Completed: Now “Catholic Intellectual Tradition”  Once semester/two sections may suffice. This course will be in the rotation for SGPS (also cross-listed with UC) and offered Face-to-Face in the UC.  The new core curriculum has set forth a path for Catholic Theology courses.  RST 215 was rebranded as “The Church in the Modern World” in Fall of 2022. The course remains an ecclesiology course. With the revision to the Core Curriculum, the course will be offered to those goals.  A new course, Theology and Creation, will be offered in Fall of 2023 as RST 318. This course will lean heavily on the encyclical from Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*. A Francis-specific course might work as a special topics course down the line. A course in Theology and Health Care was not approved by the curriculum committee. At the time, we planned to have students take the course from Gwynedd Mercy University online. However, with SEPCHE up in the air we will re-evaluation. | As an introductory course, Introduction to the Old Testament may be too tough; students report a much more positive experience taking other courses in religious diversity.  Less anxiety in enrollment for other courses as this course was not set apart as the lone “intro” course.  Students reported interest in racial justice portion of the course, asking for “More Massingale” (a leading scholar on the topic).  Evidence forthcoming as the new Core Curriculum is assessed.  This course will be offered for the first time in the Fall of 2023 as an honors course.  This course will be offered for the first time in the Fall of 2023. |