

AUGUSTINIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2018-19
DRAFT REPORT FOR SENATE
JESSE COVINGTON

First-Year Program Overview:

First-Year Key Goals:

- Develop a supportive, non-insular community within the group
- Deliver honors-level course content from the Christian intellectual tradition
- Help to launch scholars into reflective engagement with the broader community
- Provide opportunities and vision for Christian formation

First-Year Courses:

- IS-010H *Honors: Augustine and the Christian Tradition I: Faith Seeking Understanding* (4 units, G.E.: Philosophical Reflections).
- IS-020H *Honors: Augustine and the Christian Tradition II: Pilgrim Citizens*. (4 units, G.E.s: Understanding Society, Writing-Intensive [combined with 010]).

Years 2-3 Program Overview:

Second-Year Key Goals:

- Provide a supportive context for intellectual fellowship/unity, including mentoring
- Encourage reflective spiritual formation and service activities.
- Deliver honors level course content

Year 2-3 Seminars:

- IS-030H—*Honors Seminar: Stories Worth Telling* (1 unit)
- IS-031H— *Honors Seminar: Calls Worth Answering* (1 unit)
- IS-032H— *Honors Seminar: The Global, Local Church* (1 unit)
- IS-033H— *Honors Seminar: Interpersonal Relationships* (1 unit)
- IS-034H— *Honors Seminar: Stewardship* (1 unit)
- IS-035H—*Honors Seminar: Encountering Creation* (1 unit)
- IS-036H—*Honors Seminar: Topics* (1 unit)

Key Developments This Year (2018-2019)

- **First Year Program:**
 - 56 New Augustinian Scholars divided between 2 sections
 - Instructors: Alister Chapman, Sarah Skripsky, Ed Song, Jim Taylor, & Telford Work
 - Curricular/workload adjustments reflecting faculty interests and student feedback; experimenting with greater autonomy / less alignment between sections.
 - Increased inter-cohort interaction (peer mentoring, etc.)
- **Year 2-3 Program**
 - Seminar offerings expanded to include the newly approved offerings (see above)
 - Curricular adjustments reflecting experience so far
 - Peer mentoring implemented by student leaders
 - Instructors: Jesse Covington, Michael Everest, Andrea Gurney, Mark Nelson, & Lesa Stern
- **Other**
 - Jesse Covington was away leading Europe Semester in the Fall; Sarah Skripsky provided leadership for faculty coordination during this time.

What has gone well:

- Community: Developing student relationships (personal and academic) within the cohort, between cohorts, and within the broader campus community.
- Content: Student learning and engagement with key course themes and texts, including engagement with difficult texts.
- Scaling up to meet the needs of an expanding program.
- Expanded offerings in the year 2/3 seminars, including an NBS-related offering.
- Fostering faculty interaction/exchange in the classroom through team teaching (FYS).
- Introducing scholars to community members—faculty and staff as guest speakers.
- Prompting reflective engagement and self-assessment in relation to broader community involvements—activity journals.
- Support: Helping students navigate a range of commitments and challenges during their first year of college (effective “first-year seminar” experience).
- Good faculty collaboration within the first-year teaching team.
- Providing opportunities for Christian formation (worship practices, local churches, Retreat, etc.).

Opportunities, Challenges, Areas for Ongoing Reflection & Response

- Respond to increasing program size/scale in relation to program experience/outcomes, group cohesion, events, relationships, and curriculum (including alignment between sections, etc.).
- Appropriately expand Christian formation practices/opportunities across sections/years.
- Continue to maintain and develop faculty guest speakers’ participation (including planning and tracking), ensuring scholars’ broad interaction with diverse faculty and perspectives.
- Maintain and develop group activities and service involvements, with attention to the design of activity journals to facilitate meaningful reflection.
- Attend to scholars’ integration with campus community / avoiding isolation or elitism.
- Be attentive to students who are finding it challenging to ‘belong’ within the ASP cohort
- Continue to explore how best to develop and communicate curricular diversity/breadth and focus/parameters, including issues of race, gender, interdisciplinary connections (NBS), etc.
- Maintain and expand inter-cohort relationships/mentoring.
- Continue to assess reading and writing assignments for appropriate levels of accessibility, challenge, and accountability.
- Continue to explore impact of year one curriculum on other G.E. courses, particularly Phil. 6.
- Launch year pilot Year Four Experience
- Adding and utilizing student cohort representatives.
- Other feedback/input?

Other Items Looking Ahead:

- **Program Expansion:** Increase in numbers to include Augustinian Fellows (anticipating c. 75-90 total first-year Augustinians)
- **Curriculum Development:** Pilot Program Proposal for the Senior Capstone Seminar (attached)
- **Staffing 2019-20**
 - Jesse Covington will continue to provide program leadership.
 - Jaron Burdick will continue to provide program support.
 - First Year Seminar Teams:
 - Helen Rhee & Jesse Covington
 - Felicia Song & Ed Song
 - Telford Work & Jim Taylor
 - Year 2/3 Seminars: Michael Everest, Andrea Gurney, Sarah Skripsky, Telford Work, TBA
 - Year 4 Senior Capstone (pilot; if approved): Jesse Covington