

Assessment and CST

**Overview of Center-wide survey results:
Qualitative items regarding learning of CST principles**

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Assessment of Perceived Gains in CST Principles

- From Center-wide Assessment survey of courses (2008-2009): See article, *MJCSL*, Nov. 2011.
- “Please describe what, if anything, you have learned in this Seminar about the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of:”
 - The common good
 - Preferential option for the poor
- Note limitations of self-reported gains

Data Facts

Overall $n = 354$

- Response rates:
 - 30.8% for common good
 - 26.0% for preferential option for the poor
- Non-response bias analyses
 - Examines potential differences between respondents and non-respondents
 - SSLP and ISSLP students were less likely to respond
 - No other systematic differences

Coding and Analyses

- Derek and Beth performed all tasks/coding
- Each coder created preliminary themes separately
- Discussed findings and agreed upon 12-14 themes for each outcome
- Coded all responses individually with these themes
- Discussed and agreed upon final codings for all responses

Coding categories that evolved for raters:

Common Good →

- Interdependence/Interconnectedness
- Personal empowerment/understanding
- Work together/unity
- (In)equality
- Need for sacrifice
- Institutional/government/structural
- Cultural impositions/sensitivity
- Duty or responsibility
- Religious references
- Course critiques
- Didn't learning anything
- Miscellaneous

Coding categories that evolved for raters:

Preferential Option for the Poor →

- Awareness of need for involvement/advocacy
- Helping others help themselves
- Taking the poor's perspective/in their shoes
- Preferential option is a good thing
- Questioning preferential option
- Institutional/governmental/structural
- Cultural impositions/sensitivity
- Duty or responsibility
- Religious references
- Course critiques
- Didn't learning anything
- Miscellaneous
- Work together/help others
- Equality/Unity

The Common Good

- Interdependency/Interconnectedness
 - “ I learned about the interconnectedness of people half a world away from us. I’m now more aware of how U.S. foreign policy, especially international economic policy, affects so many people’s lives.”

The Common Good

- Work together
 - “This concept of the common good is something very difficult to aspire to as it requires a great portion of the community to devote themselves to. Without the cooperation of everyone, it is very difficult to accomplish this.”

The Common Good

- Equality
 - “The resources God gave us are here for the good of all mankind, not just a fortunate few.”

Preferential Option for the Poor

- Awareness of need for involvement/advocacy
 - “We are to be the voices of the poor, who are unable to stand up for themselves. We are their advocates, who must speak against the injustices against them...to take what we have seen and make a change.”

Preferential Option for the Poor

- Preferential Option is a good thing
 - “As I understood it, the preferential option for the poor shouldn’t be looked at as a win-lose situation. Treating the poor and vulnerable isn’t done to the detriment of the rest of society...there are also economic reasons for doing so, i.e. that societal development as a whole benefits from our efforts for the ‘least of these’.”

Preferential Option for the Poor

- Institutional/Governmental/Structural
 - “ The poor and vulnerable...have struggles that cannot always be overcome by sheer willpower and determination; there are social, political, and economic obstacles keeping them in the circle of poverty.”



Religiosity, Spirituality, and Prosocial Orientation — Context for CST Research

Religious Commitment

Spirituality
(broadly conceived)

Prosocial Development

- Moral/social responsibility
- Intention and behavior

