

**Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Greek and Latin
Undergraduate Programs in
Classics, Latin and Classical Humanities, and Classical Civilization**

Assessment Measures

The Department of Greek and Latin uses the following measures to assess departmental learning outcomes:

Senior seminars (GR 465; LAT 465): grades, enrollment totals, course evaluations
Senior comprehensive examinations: pass/fail rates
Senior tutorial and senior thesis (CLAS 425; CLAS 426): grades, completion rates

(The Department is unable to use NSSE data because none has been produced. According to Brian Johnston of CPIT (7/7/08), “The response rate to the NSSE survey for students in your department was too low for the results to be considered valid.”)

Assessment Findings

Senior Seminars

The Department of Greek and Latin analyzed course grade, evaluation, and enrollment data in GR 465 and LAT 465 for a five-year period (Fall 2003 through Fall 2007). Students majoring in Classics take both courses; those majoring in Latin and Classical Humanities take only LAT 465.

GR 465 (Attachment 1):

During this period, enrollment fluctuated in this course. No students took the course in Fall 2003, four took it in Fall 2004, two in Fall 2005, one in Fall 2006, and three in Fall 2007. The main reason for the fluctuation was the varying number of seniors in each of these years, since most of the students who take the course are seniors. (Occasionally graduate students are placed in the course to help them improve their language skills before taking graduate-level courses. This was the case for one student in Fall 2005 and one student in Fall 2007.)

The performance of students in this course, as measured by grades, ranged from satisfactory to excellent throughout the five-year period.

Course evaluation results for the past five years indicate a high level of student satisfaction with the instructor and the course. Comments by students uniformly emphasized the thoroughness with which the course was taught and the knowledge of the instructor.

LAT 465 (Attachment 2)

During this period enrollment in this course fluctuated, from two students in Fall 2003 to four the following year, down to one in Fall 2005 and Fall 2006, and back up to four in Fall 2007. This is typical of the course, which very much depends on the number of seniors majoring in Classics or in Latin and Classical Humanities.

The performance of students in this course, as measured by grades, ranged from good to excellent during the five-year period.

Course evaluations are only available for Fall 2007: the small size of the class seems to be responsible for their absence in previous years. For the year in which these are available, student satisfaction with the course was very high.

Senior Comprehensive Examinations (Attachment 3)

All seniors take comprehensive examinations. Those majoring in Classics and Latin/Classical Humanities take translation examinations based on a reading list of Greek and Latin authors; those majoring in Classical Civilization take an essay examination based on a reading list of primary and secondary texts in English.

Over the five year period from 2003 through 2007, a total of 19 seniors took these examinations. All students passed, about 1/4 at the High Pass level, and about 3/4 at the Pass level.

Senior theses

All majors write a thesis in their senior year under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The thesis is assessed in two phases. The first assessment occurs at the end of the Fall semester, and is recorded as a grade in CLAS 425 (Senior Tutorial), a one-credit course. The thesis supervisor bases this grade on the progress made by the student up to that point and on the quality of the work. The second assessment occurs at the end of the Spring semester, and is recorded as a grade in CLAS 426 (Senior Thesis), a two-credit course. This grade is based on the quality of the thesis in its final form. When completed, all theses for the year are bound together and kept in the departmental library for consultation by students and faculty. Titles of completed theses are posted on the department's web site (<http://greeklatin.cua.edu/undergrad/seniorthesislist.cfm>).

CLAS 425 (Attachment 4)

During this period enrollment in the class fluctuated according to the number of seniors in the department. In some academic years (2003-4; 2007-8) there have been as many as seven seniors, in other years as few as one (2006-7).

Course grades are typically higher in this class than in its sequel, since students are judged on the basis of the research they have completed up to the end of the semester and on a relatively small amount of written material (about 10 pages). The average grade for the class in most semesters is above 3.5; the only exception to this occurred in Fall 2003 when one student who failed to turn

in the required written material and thus failed the course brought the average down considerably.

CLAS 426 (Attachment 5)

Class enrollment is typically the same in this class as in CLAS 425

Grades are generally lower in this course than in CLAS 425 for two reasons: first, students who do not complete their theses by the last day of class are assigned an F, as happened to one student each in Spring 2003, 2004, and 2005. Second, students who find it easy to start a thesis but difficult to finish often submit theses with problems in style and content; these earn correspondingly lower grades.

It is important to note that students who do not complete their thesis by the deadline and therefore fail this course are given the opportunity to repeat the course. Of the three students who failed CLAS 426 during this five-year period, two repeated the course and passed; the third withdrew from the university.

Curricular Improvements

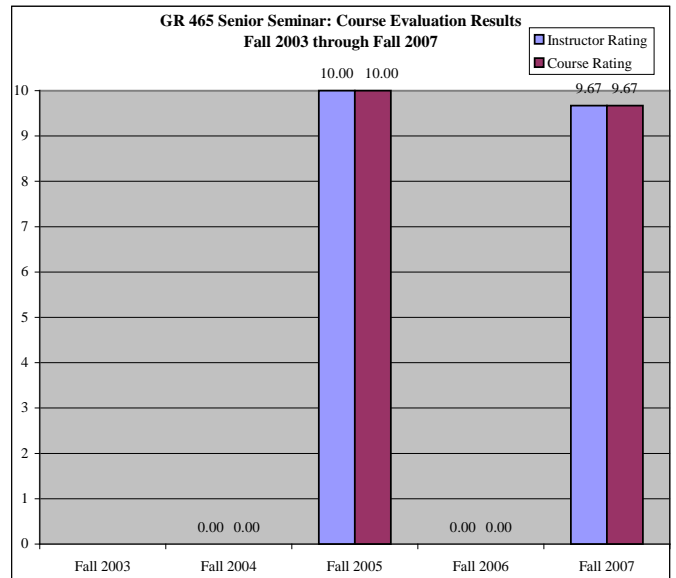
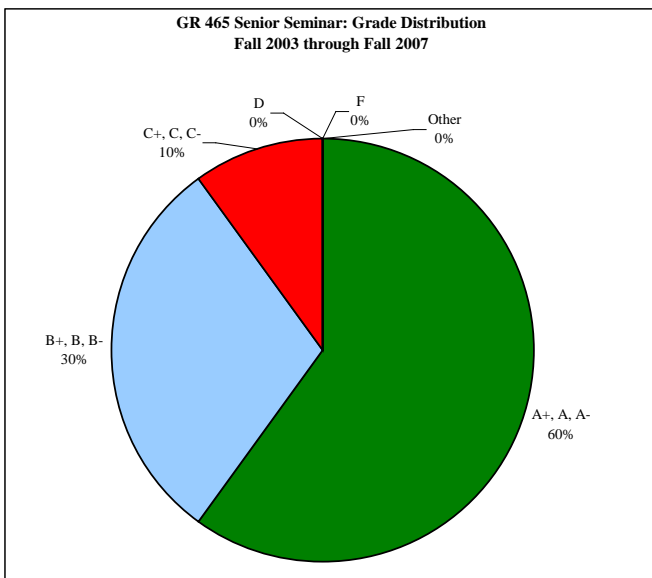
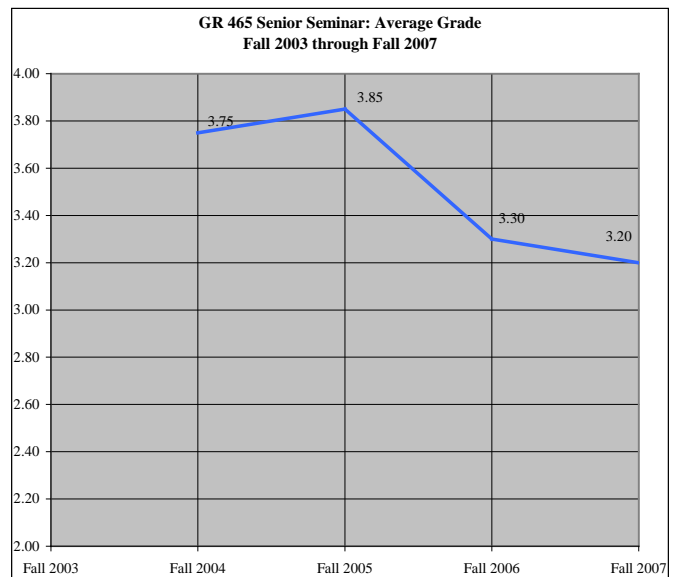
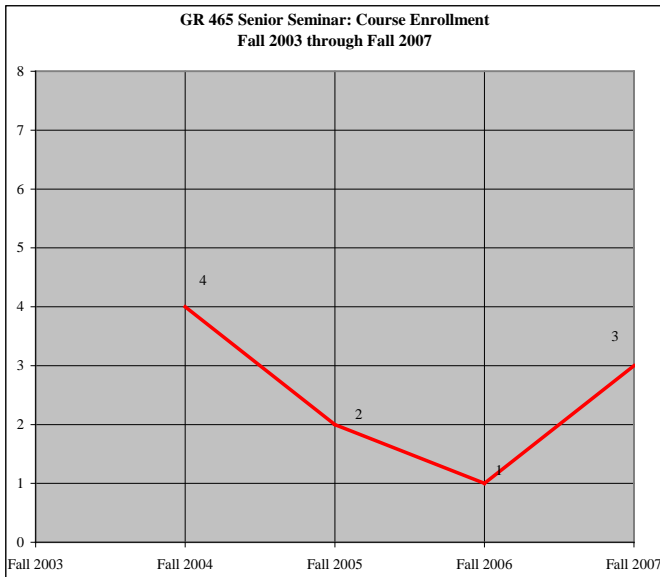
- 1) On the basis of the thesis failures in 2003-2005, it was decided that students needed to be more strongly encouraged by their advisors to make more progress on their theses during the first semester of their senior year to avoid the risk of not completing them by the end of the second semester. This and other aspects of the advisement process were also improved by the formal articulation of senior thesis guidelines and expectations in Spring 2006.
- 2) In Fall 2005, senior comprehensive exams for Classical Civilization majors were thoroughly redesigned to provide students with a more integrated view of the history and literature of ancient Greece and Rome.
- 3) In order to help Latin majors better understand the influence of Greek literature on Latin literature, it was decided to require Latin and Classical Humanities majors to take GR 312: Greek Literature in Translation. All department majors are therefore required to study Greek literature, whether in translation (Classical Civilization/Latin majors) or in the original (Classics majors).

Attachment I
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
Institutional Assessment

SENIOR SEMINAR SUMMARY DATA: DEPARTMENT OF GREEK & LATIN
GR 465 Senior Seminar

Term	Course Enrollment	Course Grade		Course Grades Grade Distribution						Course Evaluation Results					
		Avg.	StDev.	A+, A, A-	B+, B, B-	C+, C, C-	D	F	Other**	Course Eval. #	Course Eval. %	Instructor Rating Avg.	Instructor Rating StDev.	Course Rating Avg.	Course Rating StDev.
Fall 2003															
Fall 2004	4	3.75	0.33	3	1										
Fall 2005	2	3.85	0.30	2						1	50.00%	10.00		10.00	
Fall 2006	1	3.30			1										
Fall 2007	3	3.20	0.85	1	1	1				3	100.00%	9.67	0.58	9.67	0.58

**The "Other" category includes grades of I, W, AU, and P.

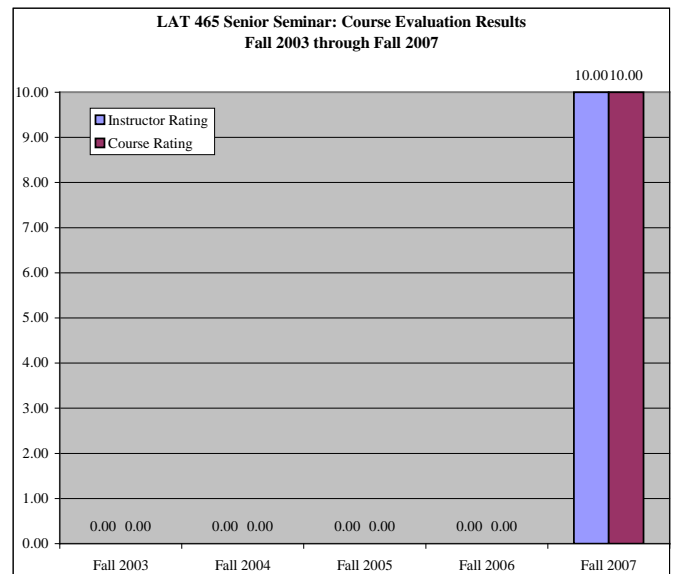
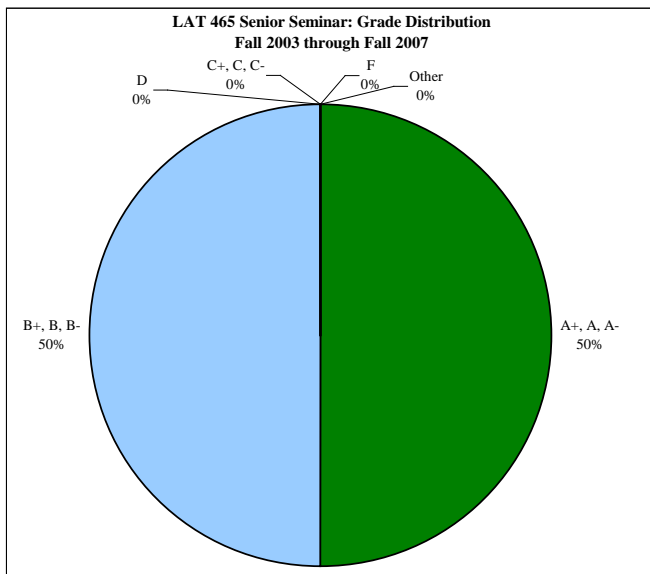
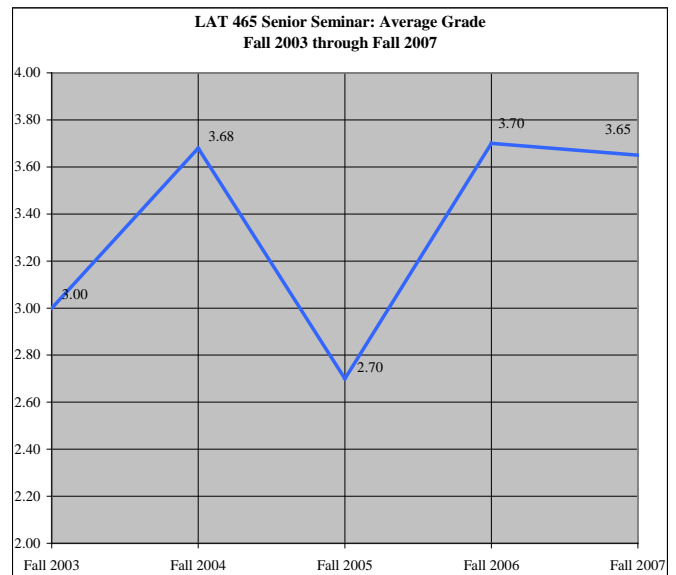
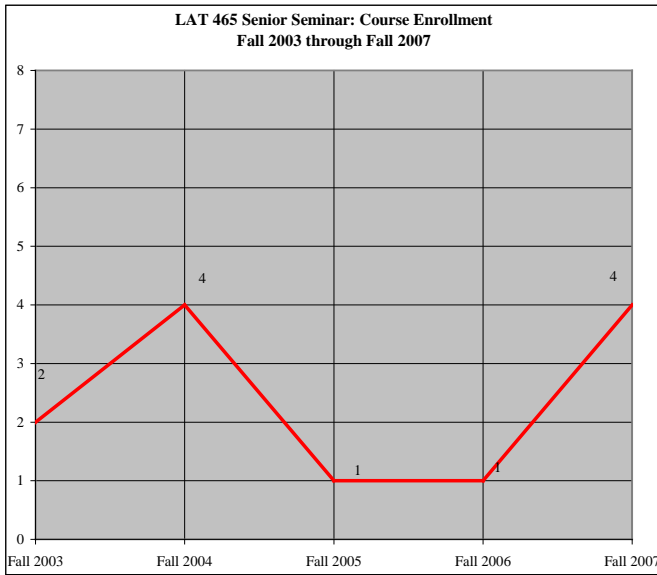


Attachment 2
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
Outcomes Assessment

SENIOR SEMINAR SUMMARY DATA: DEPARTMENT OF GREEK & LATIN
LAT 465 Senior Seminar

Term	Course Enrollment	Course Grade		Course Grades						Course Evaluation Results					
		Avg.	StDev.	A+, A, A-	B+, B, B-	C+, C, C-	D	F	Other**	Course Eval. #	Course Eval. %	Instructor Rating Avg.	Instructor Rating StDev.	Course Rating Avg.	Course Rating StDev.
Fall 2003	2	3.00	0.00		2										
Fall 2004	4	3.68	0.65	3	1										
Fall 2005	1	2.70			1										
Fall 2006	1	3.70		1											
Fall 2007	4	3.65	0.40	2	2					3	75.00%	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00

**The "Other" category includes grades of I, W, AU, and P.



Attachment 3
 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
 Institutional Assessment

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RESULTS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF GREEK AND LATIN
AY2002-2003 to AY2006-2007

	Fail		Pass		High Pass		Pass w/Honors		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
AY2002-2003		0.00%	3	100.00%		0.00%		0.00%	3
AY2003-2004		0.00%	3	50.00%	3	50.00%		0.00%	6
AY2004-2005		0.00%	4	80.00%	1	20.00%		0.00%	5
AY2005-2006		0.00%	3	75.00%	1	25.00%		0.00%	4
AY2006-2007		0.00%	1	100.00%		0.00%		0.00%	1
TOTAL	0	0.00%	14	73.68%	5	26.32%	0	0.00%	19

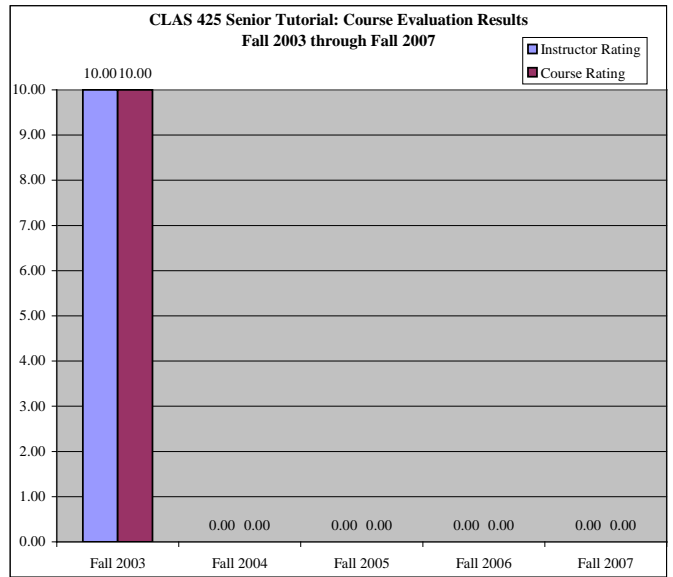
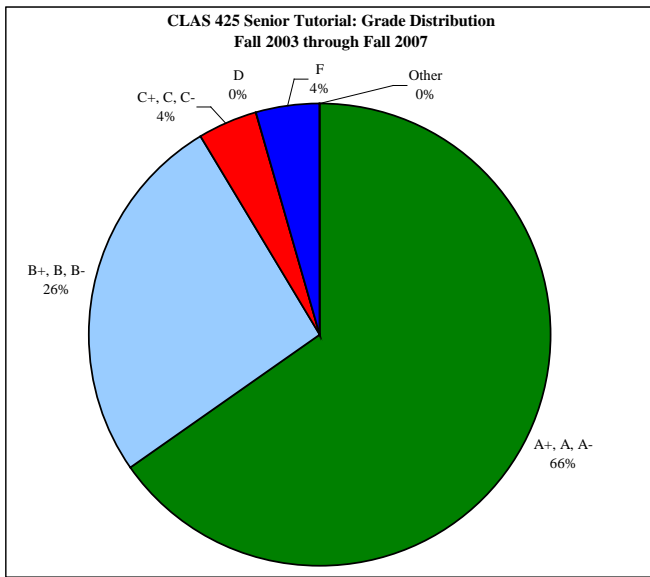
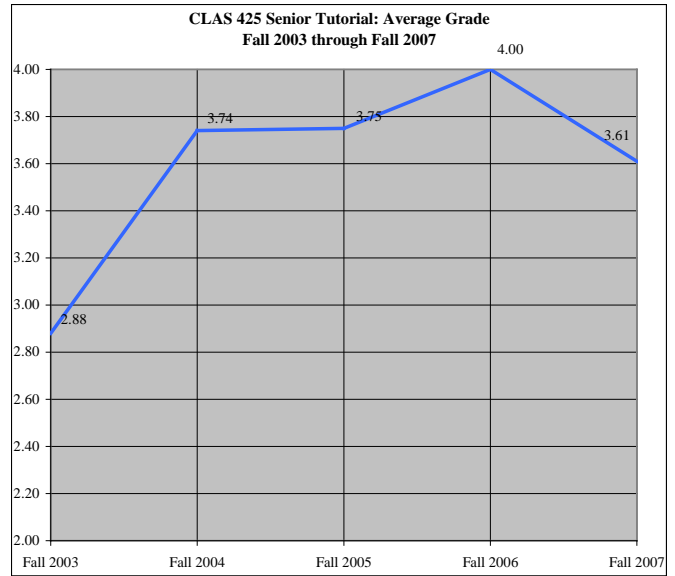
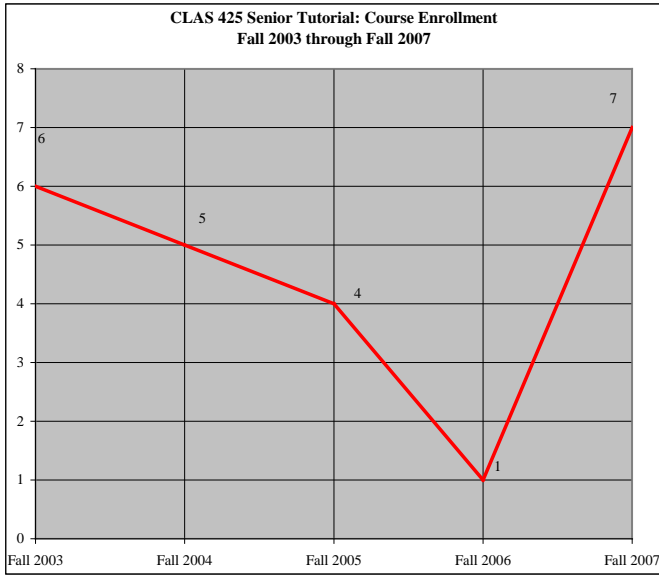
Note: Students were included in the categories High Pass and Pass with Honors if these designations were explicitly indicated within the student's milestone record. Please contact the Office of Institutional Assessment if this data can also be determined through the student's final grade in the comprehensive requirement.

Attachment 4
 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
 Outcomes Assessment

SENIOR SEMINAR SUMMARY DATA: DEPARTMENT OF GREEK & LATIN
CLAS 425 Senior Tutorial

Term	Course Enrollment	Course Grade		Course Grades						Course Evaluation Results					
		Avg.	StDev.	A+, A, A-	B+, B, B-	C+, C, C-	D	F	Other**	Course Eval. #	Course Eval. %	Instructor Rating Avg.	Instructor Rating StDev.	Course Rating Avg.	Course Rating StDev.
Fall 2003	6	2.88	1.58	3	1	1			1	1	16.67%	10.00		10.00	
Fall 2004	5	3.74	0.43	4	1						0.00%				
Fall 2005	4	3.75	0.33	3	1						0.00%				
Fall 2006	1	4.00		1							0.00%				
Fall 2007	7	3.61	0.41	4	3						0.00%				

**The "Other" category includes grades of I, W, AU, and P.



Attachment 5
 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
 Outcomes Assessment

SENIOR SEMINAR SUMMARY DATA: DEPARTMENT OF GREEK & LATIN
CLAS 426 Senior Thesis

Term	Course Enrollment	Course Grade		Course Grades Grade Distribution						Course Evaluation Results							
		Avg.	StDev.	A+, A, A-	B+, B, B-	C+, C, C-	D	F	Other**	Course Eval. #	Course Eval. %	Instructor Rating Avg.	Instructor Rating StDev.	Course Rating Avg.	Course Rating StDev.		
Spring 2003	4	3.00	2.00	3					1				0.00%				
Spring 2004	7	2.72	1.50	2	2	1			1	1			0.00%				
Spring 2005	5	2.66	1.70	2	1	1			1				0.00%				
Summer 2005	1	2.30				1			1				0.00%				
Spring 2006	4	3.43	1.15	3		1							0.00%				
Spring 2007	1	3.00				1							0.00%				

**The "Other" category includes grades of I, W, AU, and P.

