



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

“Attending Professor Weiler’s seminar...was thoroughly fascinating and enlightening. The background reading was extraordinarily thought-provoking and an interesting deviation from my normal reading material – I had never read a court case before! I was surprised by how much I enjoyed analyzing the case and formulating my own opinions on this controversial issue, which involves debate about racial and religious discrimination, state funding for faith-based schools, and the very tenets of Judaism.



“[The seminar] discussion itself was challenging but overwhelmingly worthwhile...though it was at first intimidating, I appreciated how Professor Weiler asked students to analyze the arguments, expecting us to do so clearly and concisely. His expectations were high, but he certainly pushed us to think and speak very thoughtfully.

Time flew by, and I was disappointed when the conversation had to come to an end...such opportunities to learn from distinguished scholars in a unique, interdisciplinary setting are a blessing. By attending Professor Weiler’s seminar, I got to ponder ideas and cases that would never otherwise come up in my usual science and theology classes.”

– Ashley Logsdon '12 Biological Sciences, minor in Theology



“Although I had discussed the relationships between church and state in Europe in several of my classes, Professor Weiler's seminar looked at the issues of religious freedom and state endorsement of religion from a completely different perspective than any of my previous courses. Professor Weiler presented the material in a unique way that forced me to reconsider values and principles that I had never questioned before, and he also required that the students contribute to the discussion by asking questions and providing comments that were often outside of our normal comfort zone. His emphasis on the format of our questions and explanations was especially interesting to me, and I began to understand the importance of rhetoric and semantics when discussing and presenting information in a legal setting. Even though I do not study pre-law or theology, this brief seminar definitely provided me with a unique perspective that I can apply to the remainder of my courses here at Notre Dame.”

– Elise Garton '12 English, minor in Philosophy, Politics, & Economics

