

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: Introduction to Thomas Aquinas

TERM: April – August 2018 [20185]

SCHEDULE: April 23rd – June 30th, 2018

PROFESSOR: Dr. Francesco Pica

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 25

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an on-line introduction to the thought of the 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas, the most influential Catholic theologian of the last millennium. No previous knowledge of Aquinas or of philosophy is presumed.

We will start by looking at Aquinas' program of remaking Christian theology in light of the best philosophy and science of his day. Then we will examine his views on human action, human nature, human knowing and philosophical theology.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: Students should be able to:

1. describe and distinguish the different ways we can know God: through faith, through positive but analogical knowledge, and through univocal but negative knowledge.
2. identify the cardinal and theological virtues and explain how they co-operate in leading humans to happiness.
3. explain the paradox of how the human soul is both the form of the body (and therefore dependent on it) and subsistent (and therefore independent of it).
4. describe the process by which humans move from sensation through imagination to knowledge.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Kreeft, Peter, ed. *A Summa of the Summa: The Essential Philosophical Passages of St. Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae Edited and Explained for Beginners*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990.
- Pieper, Josef. *Guide to Thomas Aquinas*. Trans. by Richard and Clara Winston. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

- 3 Discussion Board Assignments and Responses:
(Unit 1 = 10%; Unit 2 = 15%; Unit 3 = 15%) - 40%
- 3 Tests: (Test 1 = 10%; Test 2 = 15%; Test 3 = 15%) - 40%
- 1 Written Assignment Paper - 20%

Total 100%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Primary Sources:

- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa theologiae*. 3 vols. Trans. and ed. by the Fathers of the English Dominican Province. New York: Benzinger Bros., 1947-8.

Secondary Sources:

- Brock, S. L. *The Philosophy of Saint Thomas Aquinas: A Sketch*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2015.
- Chenu, M.-D. *Toward Understanding St. Thomas*. Trans. A.-M. Landry and D. Hughes. Chicago, 1964.
- Chesterton, G.K. *St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox*. New York, 1956.
- Dauphinais, M. and M. Levering. *Knowing the Love of Christ: An Introduction to the Theology of Thomas Aquinas*. Notre Dame, 2002.
- Davies, Brian. *The Thought of Thomas Aquinas*. Oxford, 1992.
- Gilson, E. *Thomism: The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas*. Trans. L. Shook and Maurer. 6th edition. Toronto, 2002.
- Jordan, M. *Ordering Wisdom: The Hierarchy of Philosophical Discourses in Aquinas*. Notre Dame, 1986.
- Kretzmann, N., and Stump, E., eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*. Cambridge, 1993.
- Maritain, J. *Thomas Aquinas: The Angel of the Schools*. Trans. J. F. Scanlan. London, 1946.
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- McNerny, R. *Aquinas*. Cambridge, 2004.
- McNerny, R. *Ethica Thomistica. The Moral Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas*. Rev. ed. Washington, 1997.
- McNerny, R. *Aquinas and Analogy*. Washington, 1996.
- McNerny, R. *First Glance at St. Thomas Aquinas*. Notre Dame, 1990.
- Nichols, A. *Discovering Aquinas: An Introduction to His Life, Work, and Influence*. Grand Rapids, 2002.
- Owens, J. *St. Thomas Aquinas on the Existence of God*. Albany, 1980.
- Pasnau, R. *Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature*. Cambridge, 2002.
- Pieper, J. *Guide to St. Thomas*. Trans. R. and C. Winston. San Francisco, 1986.
- Pieper, J. *The Silence of St. Thomas*. Trans. J. Murray and D. O'Connor. South Bend, 1999.
- Pope John Paul II. *Two Lectures on St. Thomas Aquinas*. Niagara, NY, 1995.
- Pope, S., ed. *The Ethics of Aquinas*. Washington, D.C., 2002.
- Porter, J. *Recovery of Virtue: The Relevance of Aquinas for Christian Ethics*. Louisville, 1990.
- Torrell, J.-P. *Saint Thomas Aquinas, I. The Person and his Work*. Trans. R. Royal. 2nd ed. Washington D.C.: 2005.
- Torrell, J.-P. *Saint Thomas Aquinas, II. Spiritual Master*. Trans. R. Royal. Washington, D.C.: 2003.
- Weisheipl, J. A. *Friar Thomas d'Aquino. His Life, Thought, and Works*. 3rd ed. Washington: 1983.