

DOMINICAN INSTITUTE, IBADAN
Department of Theology
First Semester 2020/2021
Fridays, 3:40-6:20pm
PHI 206 Introduction to the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas

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Course Description

The course aims at forming the student to read, interpret, and apply the philosophy contained in the writings of Thomas Aquinas. The first part of the course will be devoted to the history, context, style, and method of Aquinas. The second part will involve critical exposure to a selection of Aquinas' writings.

Requirements

I. Online Lectures attendance and active participation

Regular class attendance and intelligent participation in class discussions are required for students to grasp the content of the course. Intelligent participation in class discussion demands reading the text assigned for discussion on each session. Active online participation will account for 10 % of the final grade.

II. Pre-Lecture Summaries

Students are expected to read the assigned text(s) for each lecture and submit a page (single line spacing) four-point summary of the assigned text(s). This summary is to be submitted online before each lecture. The submission automatically closes 30 minutes before the lecture commences. Students must be ready to respond to critical questions arising from their summaries. These summaries will account for 20 % of the final grade.

III. An Article Review

Each student will be required to write a critical review in 8 A4 pages (1.5 line spacing) of an assigned article in the *Oxford Handbook of Aquinas* edited by Brian Davies and Eleonore Stump (Oxford: OUP, 2012). Margins should be 1 inch on each side. This assignment will account for 20% of the final grade.

IV. An Expository Essay

Each student will be required to write an essay that will account for 20% of the final grade. The essay is to be written as an exposition of any one of the following texts of Aquinas:

- (a) *Disputed Question on Truth*, 1, aa. 1-9.
- (b) *Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius*, q. 1, aa. 1-4.
- (c) *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 22, aa. 1-4
- (d) *De Malo (On Evil)*, q. 1, aa. 1-5.

(e) *De Malo (On Evil)*, q. 12, aa. 1-5.

(f) *De Potentia (On the Power of God)*, q. 1, aa. 1-7.

The essay should be within 8-10 pages on a size A4 paper, using font size 12. Margins should be 1 inch on each side. 1.5 lines spacing is to be used. Footnotes, not endnotes, are to be used.

V. Research Paper

This research paper will account for 30% of the final grade. It will take the form of a well-researched paper on the following topic: **A Critical Evaluation of Aquinas' Proofs of the Existence of God" (ST, I, q. 2, a. 3)**. This research paper will take the place of the final exam. It is to be submitted no later than the date of examination, as will be stipulated on the semester examination time-table from the department. This research paper should be within 10-15 pages on a size A4 paper, using font size 12. Margins should be 1 inch on each side. 1.5 lines spacing is to be used. Footnotes, not endnotes, are to be used.

Academic Policy

Students are hereby reminded of the extant academic policy against plagiarism and any form of academic dishonesty. Students are advised to acknowledge and properly cite sources of their ideas. Due academic diligence, critical reading, and interpretation of texts are of essence.

Bibliography

Aidan Nichols, *Discovering Aquinas: An Introduction to His Life, Work, and Influence* (Grand Rapids, MI/Cambridge, UK: William B. Eedemans, 2002).

Anthony J. Lisska, *Aquinas's Theory of Perception: An Analytic Reconstruction* (Oxford: University Press, 2016)

Anthony Kenny, *Aquinas on Mind* (London and New York: Routledge, 1993).

Anton Pegis, ed., *Introduction to St Thomas Aquinas* (New York: The Modern Library, 1948).

Brian Davis and Eleonore Stump, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Bernard McGinn, *Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologiae: A Biography* (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2014).

Brian Davies, *The Thought of Thomas Aquinas* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992).

- Denys Turner, *Thomas Aquinas: A Portrait* (London: Yale University Press, 2013).
- F. Donald Logan. *A History of the Church in the Middle Ages* (London: Routledge, 2002).
- Fergus Ker, *After Aquinas: Versions of Thomism* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002). Herbert McCabe, *On Aquinas*. Edited and introduced by Brian Davies (London: Burns and Oates, 2008).
- James Weisheipl, *Friar Thomas D'Aquino: His Life, Thought and Works* (Washington, DC: CUA Press, 1974).
- Jean-Pierre Torrell, *Aquinas's Summa: Background, Structure & Reception* (Washington: CUA Press, 2015).
- _____. *St Thomas Aquinas*: Trans. Robert Royal
 Vol. 1 *The Person and his Work* (Washington: CUA Press, 1996)
 Vol. 2 *Spiritual Master* (Washington: CUA Press, 2003)
 “Saint Thomas et l’histoire: état de la question et pistes de recherche”
 in *Revue Thomiste* 55 3 (2005) 355-409.
- Joseph Kenny, *La philosophie du monde arabe* (Kinshasa: FCK, 1994).
- Leo J. Elders, *Thomas Aquinas and His Predecessors: The Philosophers and the Church Fathers in His Works* (Washington, DC: CUA Press, 2018).
- Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter: *Aeterni Patris* (On the Restoration of Christian Philosophy According to the Mind of St Thomas Aquinas), given at St. Peter’s in Rome, August 04, 1879.
- M.-D. Chenu, *Towards Understanding St Thomas*. Trans. A.-M. Landry and D. Hughes (Chicago: HenryRegnery Company, 1964).
- Michael Dauphinais, Barry David and Matthew Levering, eds, *Aquinas the Augustinian* (Washington, DC: CUA Press, 2007).
- Norman Kretzmann, Anthony Kenny, Jan Pinborg and Eleonore Stump, eds, *The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).
- Norman Kretzman and Eleonore Stump, eds, *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).
- Philip Hughes, *A History of the Church*, Vol 2: The Church and the World the Church Created (London: Sheed and Ward, 1948).

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I. American Edition literally translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province (New York: Benziger Brothers, Inc., 1947).
_____. *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Book I. Translated with an Introduction and Notes by Anton C. Pegis (New York: A division of Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1955).

_____. *De Potentia* (On the Power of God). Translated by Richard J. Regan. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

_____. *De Malo* (On Evil). Translated by Richard Regan, edited with an Introduction and Notes by Brian Davies (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

_____. *Questiones Disputatae De Veritate* (Disputed Questions on Truth), Volume 1, Questions 1-9. Translated by Robert W. Mulligan. (Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1952).

_____. *Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius* (qq. 1-IV). Translated with Introduction and Noted by Armand Maurer. (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1987).

Thomas O'Meara, *Thomas Aquinas Theologian* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1997).

Romanus Cessario, *A Short History of Thomism* (Washington: CUA Press, 2003).

Vivian Boland, *St Thomas Aquinas* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc., 2007).

Schedule of Readings

Part One

Lecture 1 Introduction

Lecture 2 ***Aeterni Patris and its Consequences***
Leo XIII, *Aeterni Patris*. On the Restoration of Christian Philosophy According to the Mind of St Thomas Aquinas
Jean-Pierre Torrell, *Aquinas's Summa: Background, Structure & Reception*, Ch. VI.

Lecture 3 Bernard McGinn, *Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae: A Biography*, ch. 1.
Jean Pierre Torrell, *St Thomas Aquinas*, vol. 1, chs I-IV

Literary Form, Language, and Method in Aquinas' Works

Lecture 4 M.-D. Chenu, *Toward Understanding Saint Thomas*, chs II-III

Lecture 5 M.-D. Chenu, *Toward Understanding Saint Thomas*, chs IV-V

Context and Works of Thomas Aquinas

Lecture 6 Jean Pierre Torrell, *St Thomas Aquinas*, vol. 1, chs V-VIII
James Weisheipl, *Friar Thomas D'Aquino: His Life, Thought and Works*, ch. IV-V.

Lecture 7 Jean Pierre Torrell, *St Thomas Aquinas*, vol. 1, chs X-XV.
James Weisheipl, *Friar Thomas D'Aquino: His Life, Thought and Works*, ch. VI-VII.

Towards Understanding Thomas' Thoughts

Lecture 8 Anton Pegis, *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*, xi-xxx.

Lecture 9 Aidan Nichols, *Discovering Aquinas*, Chapters 9-11.

Part Two Select Readings in Thomas Aquinas

Lecture 10 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, Book 1, Chs 1-10.

Lecture 11 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, qq. 2-3

Lecture 12 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 12

Lecture 13 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 19.