

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at Western University**

**Philosophy 3013E/570
THOMISTIC PHILOSOPHY II**

**Wednesday (7:00 – 10:00 P.M.)
St. Peter's Seminary, Room 143**

INSTRUCTOR: JOHN B. KILLORAN, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: St. Peter's Seminary, Room 201 on Wednesdays 5:30 P.M.--6:30 P.M. or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An advanced course on the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas for those already familiar with his thought with emphasis on Thomistic metaphysics as the study of being *qua* being. The course will examine six key areas of Thomistic metaphysics: (1) the science of being; (2) the transcendentals as modes of being; (3) the being of nature; (4) causation as the communication of being; (5) God as the source of being; (6) being and the good. Antirequisite: the former Philosophy 173. Prerequisite: Philosophy 2014.

GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes.

KNOWLEDGE:

What Should Students Know:

- To understand St. Thomas Aquinas's natural theory as interpreted by contemporary Thomist philosophers

SKILLS:

What Should Students Do:

- To demonstrate a grasp of philosophical method in and outside of the classroom.
- To argue effectively for philosophical positions.
- To write essays which are stylistically and grammatically correct.
- To express ideas clearly and concisely.

ATTITUDES:

What Students Should Value:

- To participate in philosophical discussions in a civil and non-coercive manner, respecting others even though disagreeing with their ideas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Fall Semester

Two Exams

- (1) Wednesday, October 16.
- (2) Wednesday, November 13.

One Essay (2000 words) due Friday, December 6, 2024.

Winter Semester

Two Exams

- (1) Wednesday, February 5.
- (2) Wednesday, March 12.

One Essay (2000 words) due Friday, April 4, 2025.

Final Exam: Held on a date in April to be set by the University.

ALLOTMENT OF MARKS

Four Exams: 10% each X 4 = 40%.

Two Essays: 15% each X 2 = 30%.

Final Exam: 30%.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Aquinas. *Selected Writings*. Translated by Ralph McInerny. New York: Penguin Books 1998. (SPS/On Reserve)

F. Norris Clarke, *The One and the Many: A Contemporary Thomistic Metaphysics*. Notre Dame, Indiana, 2001. (SPS/On Reserve)

Schmitz, Kenneth *Paths of Being: Compass of Discourse* (online)

Handouts for *De Aeternitate & De Natura Generis*.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Brown, Patterson. "St. Thomas' Doctrine of Necessary Being." *Philosophical Review* 73.1 (1964): 76-90.
- Clarke, Norris. *Explorations in Metaphysics: Being-God-Person*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1994. (SPS/On Reserve)
- Gilson, Etienne. *Being and Some Philosophers*. Toronto, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1952. (SPS/On Reserve)
- Grisez, Germain. "When Do People Begin" *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 3 (1989): 27-47. (Available at www.twotlj.org)
- Hick, John. "God as Necessary Being." *The Journal of Philosophy*, 57.22/23 (October 2 and November 10, 1960) :725-734.
- Kunkel, Frank. "Beauty in Aquinas and Joyce." *Thomist*. 12 (1949): 261-71.
- Marion, Jean-Luc. *God without Being*. Translated by Thomas A. Carlson with Foreword by David Tracy; 2nd Edition. Chicago, London: University of Chicago Press, 2012. (On Reserve/SPS)
- Moore, E. "Positivism and Potentiality." *Journal of Philosophy*. 48 (1951):472-79.
- Nichols, Terence L. "Aquinas's Concept of Substantial Form and Modern Science." *International Philosophical Quarterly* 36.3/Issue 143 (September, 1996):303-318.
- Oderberg, David S. "Hylemorphic Dualism." *Social Philosophy and Policy* 22 (2005):70-99.
- "The Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Law" in Zaborowski, Holger (ed.) *Natural Law Moral Law in Contemporary Society*. Washington D.C.: The Catholic University Press, 2010.
- Owens, Joseph. *Elementary Christian Metaphysics*. Milwaukee, WI: Bruce Publishing Co., 1963 (Center for Thomistic Studies edition, 1985).
- Parfit, Derek. "Why Anything?, Why This?: Why There Is a Universe." *London Review of Books*. 20.2, (22 January 1998):24-27.
- "Why Anything?, Why This?: Cosmology." *London Review of Books*. 20.3 (5 February 1998): 22-25.
- Penelhum, Terence. "Divine Necessity." *Mind* 69.274 (April, 1960):175-186.
- Pieper, Joseph. *The Silence of St. Thomas*. St. Augustine's Press, 1999. (SPS/On Reserve)
- *Living the Truth*. Translated by Stella Lange. Ignatius Press, 1989. (SPS/On Reserve)
- Pruss, Alexander R. *The Principle of Sufficient Reason*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. (Online/Weldon Library)
- Ross, James "Immaterial Aspects of Thought." *The Journal of Philosophy* 89.3 (March, 1992): 136-150.
- Rowe, William L. "Two Criticisms of the Cosmological Argument." *The Monist* 54 (1970).
- Russell-Copleston Debate* (Online)
- Smart, J.J.C. and Haldane, J.J. *Atheism & Theism*. 2nd Edition Oxford, U.K.: Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1997. SPS/On Reserve)
- Spaemann, Robert, Schenk, Richard "Is Every Human Being a Person?" *The Thomist: A Speculative Quarterly Review* Vol. 60, #3 (July, 1996) 463-474.
- Swinburne, R.G. "The Argument from Design." *Philosophy* 43 (1968).
- Turner, Denys. *Faith, Reason, and the Existence of God*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge

University Press, 2004. (Online/Weldon Library)
Wade, Francis C. "Potentiality in the Abortion Discussion." 29.2 (Dec., 1975): 239-255.
Wild, John. "The Ontological Ground of Ethics." *The Journal of Philosophy* 49.14 (July 3, 1952): 461-475.
----- "A Realistic Defense of Causal Efficacy." *The Review of Metaphysics* 2.8 (June, 1949): 1-14.

COURSE OUTLINE 2023—2024

1. Introduction to Thomistic Philosophy

Required Readings: Aquinas (Selected Writings [Introduction]).

Recommended Readings: Pieper, Joseph. *The Silence of St. Thomas*. St. Augustine's Press, 1999.

2. Metaphysics: The Science of Being

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [Introduction, #s 15 & 28]) and Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chap. 1]).

Recommended Readings: Gilson, *Being and Some Philosophers*, Chaps 1, 3, & 5; Marion, *God without Being*, Chap.8; Owens, Chaps 1-5; Parfit, "Why Anything?, Why This?: Why There Is a Universe" & "Why Anything?, Why This?: Cosmology" Pieper, *The Silence of St. Thomas*, Chap.2; Pruss, *The Principle of Sufficient Reason*, Chaps. 2.2 & 12; Turner, *Faith, Reason, and the Existence of God*, Chaps.9-12.

3. Metaphysical Inquiry: The Discovery of Being

Required Readings: Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 2 & 5])

Recommended Readings: Blanchette, *Philosophy of Being*, Chap. 2; Wippel. *The Metaphysical Thought of Thomas Aquinas*, Chap. 2; Fabro, "The Intensive Hermeneutics of Thomistic Philosophy: The Notion of Participation" and "The Transcendentality of *Ens-Esse* and the Ground of Metaphysics" Maritain, *Preface to Metaphysics*, Chaps 1-2.

4. Analogy: The Language of Being

Required Readings: Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 4]).

Recommended Readings: Clarke, "Analogy and Meaningfulness of Religious Language about God" in *Explorations in Metaphysics*, Chap. 7.

5. The Transcendentals: The Modes of Being

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [#14]), Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 4, 18]) & *De Natura Generis* (Caput 2); Schmitz, Kenneth *Paths of Being: Compass of Discourse* (video lecture).

Recommended Readings: Kunkel, "Beauty in Aquinas and Joyce"; Pieper, *Living the Truth*, Chap. 2.

6. The Being of Nature

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [# 3]) and Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 6--10]).

Recommended Readings: Clarke, *Explorations in Metaphysics*, Chaps. 3, 4, 5, & 6; Moore, "Positivism and Potentiality"; Nichols, "Aquinas's Concept of Substantial Form and Modern Science"; Oderberg, "Hylemorphic Dualism"; Ross, "Immaterial Aspects of Thought"

7. Causation: The Communication of Being

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [#s 2, 27, 5, & 11]), Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 12--13]), & *De Aeternitate* Handout.

Recommended Readings:; Wild, "A Realistic Defense of Causal Efficacy."

8. God: The Source of Being

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [#s 2, 27, 5, & 11]), Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 14, 19]), & *De Aeternitate* Handout.

Recommended Readings: Brown, "St. Thomas's Doctrine of Necessary Being"; Hick, "God as Necessary Being."; Penelhum, "Divine Necessity"; Rowe, "Two Criticisms of the Cosmological Argument."; *Russell-Copleston Debate*; Smart and Haldane, *Atheism & Theism*, Chaps. 1 & 2; Swinburne, R.G. "The Argument from Design."

9. The Human Person: The Questioner of Being

Required Readings: Aquinas (*Selected Writings* [#s 7, 12, 14, & 24]) and Clarke (*The One and the Many* [Chaps. 16—17]).

Recommended Readings: Spaemann, "Is Every Human Being a Person?"; Grisez, "When Do People Begin?"; Oderberg, *The Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Law*; Wade, "Potentiality in the Abortion Discussion."; Wild, "The Ontological Ground of Ethics"

Assignments

Instructions on how to prepare and write assignments will be provided early in September.

Assignments must be submitted in print and electronically. The submission is not complete until the instructor has received the assignment in both formats.

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Five percent will be deducted from the percentage grade for each calendar day late. Students must keep for their records a printed copy of each of their assignments. In the event an assignment is misplaced, he or she will be required to submit this copy to the instructor.

Exams

A student who fails to write an exam must approach the instructor and explain why he or she was not present at the exam. Depending upon the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may be granted. If that is not possible, the term grade may be re-weighted. If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University of King's.

Format

The course will be taught onsite at St. Peter's Seminary but accommodations will be made for those who wish to attend online.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Course Prerequisites and Antirequisites

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites." Senate Policy

Plagiarism

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy on Academic rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>.

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (link to Turnitin.com website: <http://www.turnitin.com>.)"

