



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 609.44 Lec 01  
A Medieval or Renaissance Philosopher:  
The Arguments of Aquinas

Fall Term 2017

Course Outline

Lectures: TBA  
Additional tutorial meetings: TBA

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**Three Notes about Email:**

- 1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that "Philosophy 609.44" or some other clearly identifying term occurs in the subject line. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam.
- 2) **If you email me to make an appointment please indicate the times when you are available.**
- 3) Please make sure your first and last names are clearly included in the body of any email message.

**Office Hours:** 13:00-14:50 on the following dates: September 15, 22, 27, October 2, 6, 13, 20, 25, November 3, 8, 17, 22, December 1, 6.

**OR BY APPOINTMENT.**

Note that this means what it says. You are not limited to the times listed, but you may need to make an appointment. If you email to ask for an appointment please be sure to state clearly the times you are available.

**Course Description:** This course makes use of material which is also being covered in Philosophy 403.2, whose classes should be attended, with additional meetings devoted to in-depth work on specific areas of the arguments of Aquinas. In the course we shall consider the strengths and weaknesses of Aquinas's arguments in three overlapping areas:

- I: Natural Philosophy (Necessity, Causality, Time, Infinity);
- II: Philosophical Theology (God's existence, God's attributes, Foreknowledge and freedom);
- III: Human Beings (The soul and immortality, Epistemology, Morality and method).

**Prerequisites:** N/A

## Course Learning Outcomes

- The ability to understand and critically discuss philosophical arguments which assume concepts and context which may be unfamiliar.
- The ability to engage in such critical discussion both orally and in writing.
- General knowledge of the concepts and background of medieval philosophy
- Specific knowledge of some of the important philosophical arguments of St Thomas Aquinas

## Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):

Background text: John Ackrill, *Aristotle the Philosopher*

Aquinas texts: Almost all of Aquinas's works are available on-line in English and Latin—<http://dhsprory.org/thomas/> and elsewhere—and those on-line sources will provide our texts for Aquinas. In particular we shall be mining, in translation, *Summa Theologiæ* (often referred to as ST), *Summa Contra Gentiles* (the Summa against the Gentiles: SCG, a standard English translation is titled *On the Truth of the Catholic Faith*), *QD de Potentia Dei* (Disputed Questions on the Power of God: De Pot), *QD de Veritate* (Disputed Questions on Truth: De Veritate), and perhaps others. In addition, a background knowledge of Aristotle's philosophical views are indispensable in reading Aquinas. Ackrill (above) is a reliable guide. Of course students at this level are expected to be familiar with, and to consult, on line resources such as the *Philosophers Index*, and the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

In addition the following are on reserve in the library:

Copleston, F. C. *Aquinas* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1955)

Copleston, F. C.: *A History of Medieval Philosophy* (London: Methuen, 1972)

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

Geach, P. T., *God and the Soul* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1969)

Grant, Edward, *The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

Kenny, A., ed., *Aquinas: A Collection of Critical Essays* (London: Macmillan, 1969).

Kenny, A., *Aquinas on Mind* (London: Routledge, 1993)

Leaman, Oliver, *An Introduction to Medieval Islamic Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985)

Leaman, Oliver, *Moses Maimonides* (London: Routledge, 1990)

MacIntosh, J. J., *The Arguments of Aquinas: A Philosophical View* (Abingdon and New York: Routledge, 2017)

Maimonides, Moses, *The Guide for the Perplexed*, trans. M. Friedlander (New York: Dover, 1956)

Marenbon, John, *Medieval Philosophy: an historical and philosophical introduction* (London: Routledge, 2007)

McMullin, E., ed., *The Concept of Matter in Greek and Medieval Philosophy* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1965)

Weisheipl, James O., *Friar Thomas D'Aquino* (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1974)

## Evaluation

- Marks will be based on two take home tests and 6 assignments.
- Tests: There will be two take home tests, each worth 41% of the final mark. The first take home test is due by 23:59, November 3. The second take home test is due by 23:59, December 8. Electronic submissions are strongly preferred. (If this is impossible let me know and I will arrange for a hard copy submission.) Please make the subject line of your emailed submission *609.44 Your Last Name T1* (or *T2*, as appropriate). If possible, please send your test as an MS Word (preferred) or PDF attachment. The take home test questions will be posted two weeks before the test is due. If you wish you may submit a rough draft of your answer at least one week before the test is due and I will, usually within 24 hours, reply with suggestions for

improvement. Your answer should not be longer than 3,000 words (it's a test, not a term paper). Please ensure that your name is on your test as well as in the accompanying email. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination.

- **Assignments:** Throughout the term there will be 6 assignments due, treating some of the philosophical arguments of Aquinas in depth. These will be discussed in additional tutorials. The assignments will be worth 18% of the final mark.
- We are asked by the University to "Indicate when writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of the student's work. (See [E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum](#) statement.)" Writing and the grading thereof is indeed a factor in the evaluation of your work. Your writing should be clear, coherent, and to the point. Your arguments should be plainly set out. You may find it helpful to consult the short notes on writing a philosophy paper on D2L.

### **Grading Method**

All marks will be on the standard university scale which ranges from A+ to F. Your mark may sometimes have a slash ('/') in it, thus: B/B+. In such cases the first mark is the official mark, the second shows which end of the mark you are closer to. An A-/B+ is an A- at the lower end; an A-/A is an A- at the upper end. Letter grade marks will be averaged by using GPA numerical equivalents.

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](https://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

**Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

**Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Other Helpful Contacts**

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.