



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 609.7 Lec 01 – Topics in the History of Philosophy: Aquinas**

**Winter Term 2012**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** M 16:00 - 18:30, SS 113

**Instructor:** J. J. MacIntosh

**Office:** SS 1249

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**Two Notes about Email:**

- 1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that “Phil 403” 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) Should you change your email address during the term please ensure that it is changed in the University system. If you do not, and an email message is sent to the class, it will fail to reach you.

**Office Hours:** In the period January 9 - April 13, office hours are at the following times: Thursdays 11:00:00 - 12:00, and 15:00-16:00, save for 4 weeks when they are switched to 14:00 - 16:00 on the previous Wednesday, that is, to 14:00 - 16:00 on Feb 1, Mar 7, Mar 28, and Apr 11.

**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:** An investigation of certain important philosophical views and arguments of St. Thomas Aquinas. I shall try to conform to the following schedule, but class interest or the need for further discussion of a given topic may lead to adjustments.

Week 1, Jan 9	Administrative matters and introductory background
Week 2, Jan 16	Aquinas on necessity
Week 3, Jan 23	Aquinas on causality
Week 4, Jan 30	Aquinas on infinity
Week 5, Feb 6	Aquinas on God's existence and nature
Week 6, Feb 13	Aquinas on time and creation
Feb 20	Reading Week
Week 7, Mar 5	Test
Week 8, Mar 12	Aquinas on foreknowledge, freedom, and the problem of evil
Week 9, Mar 19	Aquinas on souls, separated substances, and immortality
Week 10, Mar 26	Aquinas on epistemology and psychology
Week 11, Apr 2	Aquinas on method and morality I
Week 12, Apr 9	Aquinas on method and morality II
Week 13, Apr 12	Aquinas: problems arising from earlier topics

Detailed suggestions for reading will be given out week by week. At some point toward the end of term 15-20 minutes at the beginning of class will be used for the Faculty student survey.

### **Required Texts**

A great many of Aquinas's works are available on-line, and those will provide our texts. In addition, a background knowledge of Aristotle's philosophical views are indispensable in reading Aquinas. One of the best short introductions is John Ackrill's *Aristotle the Philosopher*, and that is the hard copy text assigned for the course. For the rest we shall be using on-line sources, particularly the *Summa Theologiae*, and the *Summa Contra Gentiles*. On line sources you may find useful include:

general: see <http://www.home.duq.edu/~bonin/thomasbibliography.html>  
and particularly: <http://dhspriority.org/thomas>

- Aquinas, St Thomas, *De Spiritualibus Creaturis (On Spiritual Creatures)*, trans. Mary C. FitzPatrick in collaboration with John J. Wellmuth (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1949)  
<http://dhspriority.org/thomas/QDdeSpirCreat.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *QD de Potentia Dei (On the Power of God)*, 2 vols., trans Lawrence Shapcote, (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne, 1932; reprinted Westminster, MD: The Newman Press, 1952) <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/QDdePotentia.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *Quæstiones de Anima (Questions on the Soul)*, trans. James H. Robb (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1984) <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/QDdeAnima.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, Commentary on The Sentences, <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/Sentences.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *De Unitate Intellectus Contra Averroistas (On the Unity of the Intellect Against the Averroists)*, trans. Beatrice H. Zedler (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1968); <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/DeUnitateIntellectus.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, On the Eternity of the World, trans C Vollert, in St Thomas Aquinas, Siger of Brabant, St Bonaventure, *On the Eternity of the World* (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1964), <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/DeEternitateMundi.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *QD De Veritate (The Disputed Questions on Truth)*, 3 vols. (Chicago: Henry Regnery, vol. 1 (qq 1-9), trans. Robert W. Mulligan, 1952; Vol. 2 (qq 10-20), trans. James V. McGlynn, 1953; Vol. III (qq 21-29), trans. Robert W. Schmidt, 1954); <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/QDdeVer.htm>
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *Quodlibetal Questions*, trans Sandra Edwards, <http://dhspriority.org/thomas/QDquodlib.htm>

In addition the following are on three day reserve in the library:

- Davies, Brian, ed., *Thomas Aquinas: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)
- Brown, Christopher M., *Aquinas and the Ship of Theseus: Solving Puzzles about Material Objects* (London: Continuum, 2005)
- Copleston, F. C. *Aquinas* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1955)
- Ibn Rushd (Averroës), *Tahafut al tahafut (The Incoherence of the "Incoherence")*, trans Simon Van Den Bergh, (2 vols, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1954 (c.1180))
- Kenny, A., ed., *Aquinas: A Collection of Critical Essays* (London: Macmillan, 1969).
- Kenny, A., *Aquinas on Mind* (London: Routledge, 1993)
- Kenny, Anthony, *The Five Ways* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969)
- Kretzmann, Norman, ed, *Infinity and Continuity in Ancient and Medieval Thought* (Ithaca, N.Y. : Cornell University Press, 1982)
- Kretzmann, Norman., *The Metaphysics of Theism: Aquinas's Natural Theology in Summa Contra Gentiles I* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997)
- Leaman, Oliver, *An Introduction to Medieval Islamic Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985)
- Maimonides, Moses, *The Guide for the Perplexed*, trans. M. Friedlander (New York: Dover, 1956)
- Pasnau, Thomas, *Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ Press, 2002)

Stump, Eleonore, *Aquinas* (London: Routledge, 2003)

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

Wissink, Jozef, ed, *The Eternity of the world in the thought of Thomas Aquinas and his contemporaries* (Leiden: Brill, 1990)

## **Evaluation**

This course meets jointly with Philosophy 403. In addition to those meetings, we shall arrange additional meetings (time: TBA) when students will present additional short discussion-opening papers. Marks will be based on two tests, each worth 40%, plus those additional papers and participation (20%). There will be an in-class test on March 5, and a take home test, given out on April 2, due April 13 (no late submissions accepted). After the first test students may, if they wish, submit an optional term paper. The term paper mark will, if higher, replace the test mark for the purpose of calculating the final mark, unless the test mark was an F, in which case that mark will stand. Deadline (firm) for term paper: two weeks after the return in class of the test. A draft of the paper may be submitted (email preferred, hard copy acceptable) up to a week before the due date: comments and suggestions for improvement will usually be available the next day. The final version (this also holds for the take home test) may be either a hard copy or an email submission or both. If your paper is submitted electronically (preferred form of submission) please submit it as a Microsoft word document, or an rtf document, or (particularly if it contains any logical or mathematical symbols) a pdf document. There will be no registrar-scheduled final examination. The optional term paper should be long enough to allow for an adequate *discussion*—a critical investigation of the considerations *for and against* a given position—of the topic with which the paper deals. In general, a length between 2,000 and 4,000 words would be appropriate for the optional term paper. 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.

There is no particular component of the course in which a pass is essential if the student is to pass the course as a whole.

**Spelling and grammar:** More than five grammatical or spelling mistakes on any one page of an optional term paper or take home test will lead to the paper or test being returned for corrections before a mark is assigned. Corrections are due within two days of the return. Two examples of the same mistake count as two mistakes. Standard U. S. spellings (e.g., 'neighbor' for 'neighbour', 'center' for 'centre', 'theater' for 'theatre', etc.) are acceptable. Common mistakes in philosophy papers include: (1) misspellings of 'existence,' 'conceive,' 'argument,' and 'separate'; (2) the misuse of 'i.e.' for 'e.g.'; (3) the misuse of 'phenomena' and 'criteria' as singulars. They are plurals. The singulars are 'phenomenon' and 'criterion.' Finally there is (4) the increasingly common use of 'it's' as a possessive. Perhaps this almost ubiquitous error will become standard, but it has not done so yet, and just as we do not speak of "he's book," or "she's pen" so we should not refer to "it's colour." Like "he's" or "she's," "it's" is a contraction, not a possessive. Of course you should avoid sexist language. In particular, remember that 'man' and 'he' are not gender neutral, and that 'girl' is not an appropriate term for adult women. (No doubt these remarks will have little practical relevance for *this* class; I put them in mainly to ensure that they remain unnecessary.)

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. Notice that footnotes of the incomplete and unhelpful sort offered in "E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum" (at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>) will be clear evidence of insufficient scholarly acumen or ability. You may wish to consult the short notes on writing a philosophy paper

on the Philosophy Department's website for a more helpful way of giving references. These notes also mention the relation between writing and philosophical evaluation.

### **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.