

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:** S **YEAR:** 2010

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Sean Mulrooney

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 20

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is an introduction to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), 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. Students will be required to participate in on-line discussions, to write a book review and to write a 1,500 word essay.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- To describe and distinguish the different ways we can know God: through faith, through positive but analogical knowledge, and through univocal but negative knowledge.
- To identify the cardinal and theological virtues and explain how they co-operate in leading humans to happiness.
- To define and describe the interrelations between human, natural, eternal and divine law.
- To 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).
- To 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:**

Weekly participation in on-line discussions:	60%
Book review:	10%
1,500 word expository essay:	30%

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Primary Sources

Thomas Aquinas. *Summa theologiae*, 5 vols. Ed. by the Piana Commission. Ottawa, 1953.

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

**For the *Summa theologiae* on-line, go to <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>.**

## Secondary Sources

- Chenu, M.-D. *Introduction à l'étude de saint Thomas d'Aquin*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Montreal-Paris, 1954. English translation: *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 A. Maurer. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto, 2002.
- Kretzmann, N., and Stump, E., eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*. Cambridge, 1993.
- McInerny, R. *Aquinas*. Cambridge, 2004.
- . *Ethica Thomistica. The Moral Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas*. Rev. ed. Washington, 1997.
- . *Aquinas and Analogy*. Washington, 1996.
- . *First Glance at St. Thomas Aquinas*. Notre Dame, 1990.
- Nichols, A. *Discovering Aquinas: An Introduction to His Life, Work, and Influence*. Grand Rapids, 2002.
- Pope John Paul II. *Two Lectures on St. Thomas Aquinas*. Niagara, NY, 1995.
- Porter, J. *Recovery of Virtue: The Relevance of Aquinas for Christian Ethics*. Louisville, 1990.
- Torrell, J.-P. *Initiation à saint Thomas d'Aquin*. Fribourg-Paris, 1993. English translation: *Saint Thomas Aquinas, I. The Person and his Work*. Trans. R. Royal. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: 2005.
- . *Saint Thomas d'Aquin, II. Maître spirituel*. Fribourg-Paris, 1996. English translation: *Saint Thomas Aquinas, II. Spiritual Master*. Trans. R. Royal. Washington, D.C.: 2003.
- . *Somme de théologie de saint Thomas d'Aquin*. Paris, 1998. English translation: *Aquinas's Summa: Background, Structure, and Reception*. Trans. B. Guevin. Washington, D.C.: 2005
- Weisheipl, J. A. *Friar Thomas d'Aquino. His Life, Thought, and Works*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington: 1983.