

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2009

PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES

LT 501 - Elementary Latin I (3)

This course focuses on mastery of the morphology and syntax of classical Latin in order to provide students with a solid basis to read classical, patristic, medieval, and Renaissance Latin literature of all genres.

PH 501 - Introduction to the Life and Works of St. Thomas Aquinas (3)

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to an understanding of Thomas's authentic thought in light of contemporary Thomistic scholarship. Given that his life as a Dominican friar influenced his writings, particular attention will be paid to this relationship. Not all of Aquinas's works will be treated.

PH 511 - Ancient Philosophy (3)

The course begins with a detailed study of the fragments of the major Pre-Socratic philosophers. This study prepares the way for extensive reading of primary Platonic and Aristotelian texts, exploring the fundamental issues with which they are engaged and the central elements in their respective positions.

PH 513 - Modern Philosophy (3)

A study of the development of the Western philosophical tradition beginning with the Renaissance through the French Revolution (1400-1800). Special emphasis is placed on the transformation of this tradition inspired by the competing Rationalist and Empiricist attempts to appropriate the results and methods of the Scientific Revolution. This course concludes with the resolution of this opposition effected by Kant's critical philosophy.

PH 521 - Logic (3)

With a view to practical application, this course will first examine elementary principles and informal fallacies before presenting an in-depth study of Aristotelian syllogistic logic. A secondary focus will be upon logic's relationship to philosophy in its instrumental and epistemological roles.

PH 523 - Philosophy of Nature (Cosmology) (3)

This course will offer an Aristotelian-Thomistic consideration of natural philosophy, the science that studies nature in general. The course will begin by identifying the subject matter and scope of this science, and it will then proceed to examine the principles, causes, and elements of natural things. Topics to be addressed include the phenomenon of change, the constitution of material things in general, the relationship between the soul and the body in living things, and the structure of time.

PH 551 - Philosophy of Being (Metaphysics) (3)

This course offers a Thomistic consideration of metaphysics, the science that studies being in general. The course begins by identifying the subject matter and scope of this science, the nature of being, its attributes, its divisions, and its causes. Topics to be addressed include the problem of the

one and the many, the analogous nature of being, participation theory, and the existence and attributes of the first being, *vis.*, God. The course presumes that students have a basic familiarity with Aristotelian natural philosophy (supplementary readings will be provided for students who do not).

SACRED SCRIPTURE

SS 581 - Elementary Greek I (3)

First course in a two-semester sequence giving intensive grounding in the forms, vocabulary, and syntax of Attic and New Testament Greek; frequent exercises in reading and writing Greek.

SS 611 - Pentateuch (3)

An introduction to the first five books of the Bible and to the ways the Old Testament has been interpreted in Catholic tradition. Special attention will be given to the history of the interpretation of the Pentateuch in Judaism and Christianity.

SS 621 - Prophets of Israel (3)

An introduction to the prophetic books of the Old Testament, focusing on the three Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), and the twelve Minor Prophets (The Book of the Twelve: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). The final part of the course will briefly introduce the Book of Daniel and aspects of the reception of the Old Testament prophets in early Jewish and Christian tradition.

Introductory questions to be considered include prophecy in the ancient Near East, the Former Prophets, the extent and canonical shaping of the prophetic corpus, the prophetic vocation, the prophet as mediator, teacher, and watchman, and the typological interpretation of history in Israelite prophecy.

SS 645 - Johannine Writings (3)

This course offers an introduction to the Gospel of John, the Letters of John, and the Book of Revelation. Following a consideration of theories of authorship, dating, genre, and community regarding these works, each of the Johannine writings will be studied in terms of its historical, literary, and theological contexts with an emphasis on Christology, soteriology, and discipleship. Patristic and Thomistic readings will also be considered.

SS 671 - Introduction to Classical Hebrew I (3)

An intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew using *Basics of Biblical Hebrew* by Pratico and Van Pelt. In the first semester attention will be given to mastering the basics of Hebrew grammar, acquiring fluency in pronunciation, and building vocabulary.

SS/ST 705 - Medieval Biblical Interpretation (3)

The twelfth and thirteenth centuries saw a remarkable evolution in Biblical interpretation, and the commentaries of thinkers as varied as Hugh of St. Victor, Stephen Langton, Hugh of St. Cher, Albert the Great, Bonaventure, William of Alton and Thomas Aquinas are invaluable to our understanding of the period's theological developments. By a close reading of selected expositions of these writers, this seminar will study the changing forms and methods of interpretation in the Medieval Latin West as they came to fruition in theology and preaching. Of particular interest will be

evolving considerations of authorial intention with respect to the literal and spiritual senses of the Biblical text. Also to be considered will be the emergence of university commentary as a literary genre, both as a product of the schoolroom and as an instrument for the preparation of preachers for their universal preaching mission. Latin reading ability is required.

SS 741 - The Gospel of Matthew (3)

This course will consider selected texts in the Gospel of Matthew. The texts to be considered will include both narrative and discourse. In considering the narrative texts, some accounts of healing and other miracles, we will reflect on the nature of narrative, the kind of knowledge caused by narrative, and the unique power of biblical narratives to mediate knowledge of the *mysterion*. In considering the discourses we will concentrate on the Sermon on the Mount.

SS 747 - The Last Discourses of Jesus in John's Gospel (3)

Chapters 13-17 of John's Gospel will be studied as a resume of the theology of the Fourth Gospel, both in retrospect (chapters 1-12) and in prospect (the Passion Narrative, chapters 18-21). Special attention will be paid to the "Paraclete Promises," the notions of obedience and friendship, the "works" of Jesus, and the prayer for unity in chapter 17. We will also have to consider the difference in linguistic expression between John and the Synoptics as this affects the discourse material. Finally, we will reflect on the mode of causality of Jesus' words as they reach us via the Johannine Gospel.

SS 765 - Catholic Letters and Letter to the Hebrews (3)

The focus of this course concerns the letters of James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, and Hebrews (note that 1, 2, and 3 John are considered among the Catholic letters but will not be treated here, since they are included in the Johannine Writings course). For each letter issues of dating, authorship, audience, and genre will be considered, with the main emphasis on the theological and historical context of each letter in early Christianity. The Letter to the Hebrews will be featured given its complexity and significance. Some patristic commentaries on the letters will also be included.

SS 771 - Intermediate Classical Hebrew I (3)

Rapid reading in Biblical Hebrew prose, usually from the Pentateuch and/or historical books of the Old Testament. Readings supplemented by systematic presentations on Hebrew grammar, such as verbal syntax and patterns of derivational morphology. *Prerequisite: SS 672 - Introduction to Classical Hebrew II or equivalent.*

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

ST 601 - Nature and Method of Theology (3)

A study of the nature of theological thinking as an intellectual inquiry, arising from faith and having God himself and his promises as its proper subject matter. The course presents an interpretation of significant current trends in the light of the history of theology, with emphasis on medieval and modern theology. Shaped by Thomas Aquinas's conception of theology as *sacra doctrina*, the course advances proposals about such topics as revelation, scripture and tradition, faith and reason, the use of philosophy in theology, the nature of doctrines and their development, and the role of authority.

ST 611 - Creation and the Human Person (3)

Divine gratuity is the point of reference for this theological study of the spiritual material and spiritual-material orders in their relation to God and to each other. In particular, the gifts of cosmos and the human person provide the axes for an inquiry into the meaning and purpose of creation, divine Providence, a theological appraisal of the cosmos, the problem of evil, and the nature and origin of the human person as image of God. St. Thomas Aquinas serves as master guide who himself provides principles for extracting the perennial from the passing in a theological domain where a balanced fidelity to the perduring and responsiveness to the contemporary are especially mandated.

ST 621 - Basic Elements of Christology (3)

A systematic approach to Christology guides this course's review of key historical moments in the Church's theological elucidation of the mystery of Christ. After situating it within the larger theological domain and clarifying its nature, Christology is examined from the perspectives of a Catholic reading of Sacred Scripture, its development in the controversies and councils of the early Church, and St. Thomas Aquinas's synthesis in the *Summa Theologiae's* tract on Christ. Finally, modern developments and questions are critically addressed with an eye toward outlining an adequate Christology for the future. *Prerequisites: ST 601 - Nature and Method of Theology, ST 604 - Triune God and ST 611 - Creation and the Human Person.*

ST 631 - Sacraments: Theology and Initiation (3)

An introduction to general sacramental theory by tracing various sacramental teachings from their biblical, patristic, medieval, and contemporary perspectives. The course will also address the scriptural, historical, and dogmatic developments of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and the implications for contemporary ecumenical discussion

ST 635 - Sacrament of Marriage: Theology and Canon Law (3)

A study of the principal canons on matrimony in their historical and doctrinal context: the canonical definition of marriage and its ends and properties, preparation for marriage, impediments, mixed marriage, dissolution of the bond and annulments, convalidation, sanation (canons 1055-1165). Requirements in this course include active class participation, required readings, assigned cases and studies, and a final written examination.

ST 637 - Sacrament of the Eucharist (3)

This course will present a basic theology of mystery of the Eucharist in light of Sacred Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Topics that will be studied include: the Biblical concept of sacrifice, the Christological origins of the Eucharist, Patristic theologies of the Eucharist, the Eucharistic theology of St. Thomas Aquinas, Tridentine and Modern developments concerning the Sacrifice of the Mass, and communion ecclesiology. Theological consideration will also be given to the relation of the Eucharist to various forms of liturgical rites, and to the canonical laws of the Church.

ST 641 - Liturgiology (3)

A basic historical-theological study of the liturgy of the Church: the development of the liturgical rites of the early centuries; a consideration of such topics as ritual, symbol, environment, music; a review of the current liturgical discipline and documentation of the Church.

ST 725 - Theology, Modernism, and Historical Consciousness (3)

This seminar examines 20th century modernism and historical consciousness as they affect Catholic theology. Extensive weekly readings and discussion are the heart of the course. Each student will also present a concise and critical written account of the way modernism or historical consciousness shapes Catholic treatments of a particular theological question or task in the present.

ST 881 - Thomistic Seminar I (3)

This two-semester, three-hour intensive introduction to the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas and the philosophy undergirding it is designed for those seeking a grounding in Thomistic thought. The *Summa Theologiae* serves as the basic textbook to help guide the student systematically through basic philosophical concepts, theological method, and the theology of God, creation, human person, the moral life, law and grace.

MT 601 - Principles of Christian Moral Life I (3)

A two-semester exploration of the Catholic moral tradition from scriptural, doctrinal, historical, and systematic perspectives. The doctrinal part is supplemented by a continual reference to Scriptural moral teachings; the historical survey probes the specific contributions of the various Christian ages to Catholic morality; the systematic treatment uncovers the foundational moral teachings of St. Thomas as expressed in the *Summa Theologiae* along with their metaphysical, anthropological, and theological roots. Happiness and human ends, actions and passions, and sin and virtue are placed within a moral setting enclosed within the larger domain of divine grace penetrating human nature. Contemporary theological approaches are examined in order to assess their contributions and shortcomings.

MT 611 - Theological Virtues (3)

This class examines in depth St. Thomas Aquinas's teaching on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity as expressed in the *Summa Theologiae*. Textual analysis will serve to uncover the systematic power of the treatise on the theological virtues as well as the treatise's role within St. Thomas's larger theological vision. Attention is given to the Scriptural roots of this teaching on the theological virtues and the placement of these virtues within the Catholic theological tradition.

MT 730 - Spiritual Theology According to St. Thomas Aquinas [3]

To enlighten the student about the nature, laws and experiences of the spiritual life. It is meant to aid future formation directors of religious communities, preachers of retreats for laity, religious and priests alike. There are certain values of the spiritual life which are true for all, while other more advanced persons may have to be given differing words of advice. Above all, the spiritual director needs to discern whether or not the directee is a beginner, advanced or even relatively perfect in the life of the spirit.

MT 732 - The Inner Way: Understanding & Practicing Eastern & Western Spiritual Direction [3]

Spiritual direction was born in the Christian East, later developing its traditions in both East and West. Its history, methods, and contemporary application will be studied and discussed. Themes to be studied will be man / woman as image of the Divine Icon, growth in the likeness of God, the role of the Spiritual Mother and Father as “charismatic individual,” the attainment of purity of heart and intent, inner peace and healing, Sacraments and direction, the elder as gift bearer. Skills needed to engage in spiritual direction will be looked at. Topics to be discussed: growth in

divinization, prayer, metaonia of heart, joyful-sorrow (penthos), the Jesus Prayer and the need of a personal desert, what constitutes a true orthodox spiritual director.

MT 820 - Selected Issues in Moral Theology (3)

This course will be taught in the seminar fashion based upon Germain Grisez's *Difficult Moral Questions*. Each student will take one topic for discussion and engage in dialogue and debate with the rest of the class in light of St. Thomas Aquinas' principles, when applicable, to the theme.

CHURCH STUDIES

HS 501 - Early and Medieval Church History (3)

Emergence of the Church in the early centuries, its maturity in the Christian Roman Empire, the formation of Christendom in the western Middle Ages to AD 1450. Particular attention will be given to the reading of primary sources and a familiarization with secondary sources.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

HT 611 - Patrology (3)

This is an introductory course to the study of the Fathers of the Church, both East and West. Their points of view, culture, historical events, church life that fashioned their doctrines will be discussed in light of their writings. Particular emphasis will be placed on the monastic tradition which fashioned the living theology, mysticism and asceticism of these Churches. Present day emphasis on ecumenism and Church unity will be discussed in light of patristic doctrine and vision.

HT 739 - Magisterium and Philosophy [3]

In numerous interventions from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, the Magisterium has concerned itself directly with philosophical matters. This course consists of an examination of the major interventions, their background, the precise nature of their condemnations and exhortations, and their fruit in Catholic intellectual life. Topics in natural philosophy, metaphysics, and epistemology will be privileged, though social philosophy may also be considered. The course is also conceived as a study of a distinct chapter in the history of Thomism. Attention will be paid to the formation of the neo-Thomistic movement, its use by the Magisterium, the influence of the Magisterium on the Thomistic revival, and the persistence of Thomistic concerns in *Fides et ratio* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The purpose of the course is twofold: (1) to delineate specific magisterial interventions regarding specific philosophers or schools during this period; and (2) to identify those philosophical principles which, in the judgment of the Magisterium, are necessary for the Church's *sacra doctrina*.

PASTORAL STUDIES

PS 601 - Introduction to Pastoral Ministry (3)

An introduction to Christian ministry with attention given to both methods and models of ministry. A focus on the theology of ministry will be integral along with an introduction to the skills of theological reflection and pastoral communications. Students will be helped to use class discussions as a way of drawing together methods, group dynamics and theological themes in the exercise of ministry. A supervised pastoral placement in an approved setting is required.

PS 621 - Introduction to Church Law (3)

This course introduces basic concepts concerning law in the Church, how it is made and interpreted, and how it is applied in various situations. It also examines the status of persons in general, the computation of time, and the law on sacraments and temporal goods. Requirements in this course include active class participation, required readings, assigned cases and studies, and a final written examination.

PS 661 - Ministries Practicum (3)

A practicum taken in preparation for the ministries of acolyte and reader. History and offices of these ministries, the lectionary, public proclamation, and service at the altar.

PS 662 - Deacon Practicum (3)

Taken in the semester before ordination to the diaconate, the practicum includes instruction in tasks of ministry which the future deacon will encounter in his summer and school year ministry.

PS 802 - Teaching and Learning: Theory and Practice (3)

This introductory course begins with an examination of basic principles of Catholic educational theory for various educational contexts: adult catechesis, secondary education and collegiate teaching. Students will be introduced to effective teaching practices through topics such as styles of learning and teaching methods suited to those styles, preparing and delivering class lectures, teaching observations, Lectio Coram presentations, and other practical methodologies. During the practicum component of the course, students will offer class presentations and teach in a pastoral setting.

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