

**THL 240-004: THEOLOGY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**

FALL 2009: MWF 12:30-1:20 PM

Room: Harkins Hall 334

Credit Hours: 3.00



PROVIDENCE  
COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Rev. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, O.P., Ph.D., S.T.L.

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I am generally in my office (Sowa 229B) or in my laboratory (Hickey Hall 181) from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily and am easily available with a prior appointment. To make an appointment, call me at 865-1823. You may also contact me via email. I will keep Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM for drop-in appointments. Come look for me in my office or in my lab. Please feel free to talk to me about any issue relating either to the course or to your life as a student here at Providence College.

**A PRAYER BEFORE STUDY  
St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.**

**O God, Creator of all things, true source of light and wisdom, graciously let a ray of your light penetrate the darkness of my understanding. Give me a keen intellect, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Give me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Point out the beginning, direct the progress, and perfect my work. We ask you this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas with an emphasis on his mature thought in *Summa Theologiae*. We will read, analyze, and discuss selected articles from the *Summa* to highlight key themes of Catholic theology to begin to seek answers to the following questions: What is God? Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt, *Holy Teaching: Introducing the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2005)
- Michael Dauphinais and Matthew Levering, *Knowing the Love of Christ: An Introduction to the Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2002)
- Robert Anderson and Johannes Moser, eds. *The Aquinas Prayer Book: The Prayers and Hymns of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press, 2000)
- *An Outline of the Summa Theologica*, Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., Prepared by George Q. Friel, O.P.

## ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

In this introductory theology course, you will be evaluated in the following ways:

- First, each student will be required to write a 2,000-word essay that engages one of the prayers or hymns of St. Thomas Aquinas. In your paper, please be sure to answer the following questions: (1) What does the prayer or hymn say about God? and (2) What does the prayer or hymn say about human excellence and human life? To support your argument, include at least two (2) direct quotes from the *Summa Theologiae*; at least two (2) quotes from *Knowing the Love of Christ*; and two (2) quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. **This paper is due on Monday, November 30, 2009.** Please upload your paper to the DROPBOX on ANGEL and submit a hardcopy to the instructor during the class meeting.

### Grading Scale:

10 Points	Exemplary Paper: The student has clearly read, understood, and thought through the content of the prayer or hymn. He or she was able to <i>critically</i> respond to the prayer or hymn and relate it to the material covered in class and to a wider philosophical or social context. The paper was organized and clearly written without any grammatical or stylistic errors.
9 Points	Excellent Paper: The student had clearly read, understood, and thought through the content of the prayer or hymn. He or she was able to critically respond to the text but was unable to relate it to the material covered in class and to a wider philosophical or social context. The paper was organized and clearly written but there were several grammatical or stylistic errors.
8 Points	Good Paper: The student had clearly read and understood the content of the prayer or hymn. However, he or she was not able to critically reflect upon its context. There were minor logical flaws in the argument of the paper. The paper was not well organized and there were numerous grammatical or stylistic errors.
7 Points	Adequate Paper: The student had clearly read the prayer or hymn. However, the paper suggests that he or she did not understand the content of the text. Moreover, he or she was unable to critically respond to its content. The paper was not well organized and there were numerous grammatical or stylistic errors.
0-6 Points	Inadequate Paper: It is not clear if the student had read or understood the prayer or hymn. Moreover the paper was not well written with numerous grammatical or stylistic errors.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism (“the stealing and passing off of the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source”) is not tolerated in the professional world and will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism on any written submission will result in an F for that assignment. Please consult the current Providence College Undergraduate Catalogue for its statement on “Academic Honesty.”

- Next, each student will be required to complete two examinations. The midterm examination will be taken in class on **Friday, October 16, 2009**. The final examination will be a take-home examination that will be due on **Wednesday December 16, 2009 at 5 P.M.** Please note that I expect answers on the examinations to be insightful: If you simply parrot the lectures back to me on the exam, you can expect only to receive a B+ as your highest possible grade on that test.
- Third, each student will be required to complete ten (10) 750-word commentaries. Each commentary will focus on a single article from the *Summa*. In your commentary, please be sure to address the following questions in your own words: (1) What is the main point of the article? (2) What is the argument of the article? and (3) What is the context of the article in the *Summa*? In other words, using the outline of the *Summa*, why is this article where it is in the text? Include two (2) quotes from the *Summa* to support your narrative. **These commentaries are due on the class date when the particular article is assigned for discussion and will be graded on a pass-fail basis.** You may hand in as many commentaries as you wish as long as you complete your assigned ten commentaries. Please upload your commentary to the DROPBOX on ANGEL and submit a hardcopy to the instructor at the end of the class meeting.
- Finally, please come to class ready to discuss the assigned reading assignments. I will expect active participation from all students. Participation of each student will be evaluated in relation to other students. **Wednesdays and Fridays will be seminar days. On these days, a student will lead the discussion of the texts from the *Summa* by reading his or her 750-word commentary in class.** Please take a look at the schedule of readings for your assigned days.

Note that regular attendance at each class is expected. Please email the instructor in advance if you expect to miss a class. More than three unexcused absences during the semester may lead to a final grade reduction of a full letter (e.g., B+ to C+).

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Midterm & Final Exam	50%
Paper	30%
Commentaries	10%
Class Presentation/Participation	10%

Grading Scale:

93%-100%	A	73%-76.9%	C
90%-92.9%	A-	70%-72.9%	C-
87%-89.9%	B+	67%-69.9%	D+
83%-86.9%	B	63%-66.9%	D
80%-82.9%	B-	60%-62.9%	D-
77%-79.9%	C+	<59.9%	F

## WORKING SCHEDULE OF READINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Discussion Leader</b>	<b><i>Summa Theologiae</i></b>	<b><i>Holy Teaching</i></b>	<b><i>Knowing The Love Of Christ</i></b>
9/09	<i>Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas and his Summa Theologiae</i>			
9/11		PROLOGUE	pp.11-27	pp.1-5
9/14	<i>Philosophy and Theology</i>			
9/16	DAVIDSON	I.1.1; I.1.2; I.1.5	(pp. 31-44)	
9/18	MURPHY	I.1.7; I.1.8; I.1.9; I.1.10		
9/21	<i>The Desire for Happiness</i>			
9/23	ANNUNZIATO	I-II.2.1-8	(pp. 109-118)	pp. 43-45
9/25	BOGUSZEWSKI	I-II.5.1-8		
9/28	<i>The Mystery of the One God</i>			
9/30	BOROWY	I.2.1-3	(pp. 45-56)	pp. 7-16
10/2	BROOKS	I.3.4	(pp. 57-60)	
10/5	<i>The Mystery of the Triune God</i>			
10/7	CELLO	I.27.1; I.27.3	(pp. 73-79)	pp. 16-26
10/9	GOODELMAN	I.29.4; I.32.1	(pp. 80-92)	
10/12	COLUMBUS DAY NO CLASS TODAY			
10/13	<i>The Mystery of Creation</i>			
10/14	HAYES	I.45.5; I.103.5-8	(pp. 101-106)	pp. 27-41
10/16	MIDTERM EXAMINATION			
10/19	<i>Moral Theology: The Nature of Virtue</i>			
10/21	HUGHES	I-II.55.1-2; I-II.63.1-4		pp. 45-53

10/23	JENNINGS	I-II.71.1-6		
10/26	<i>Moral Theology: The Nature of Law and Grace</i>			
10/28	LAMBERTON	I-II.91.2-4; I-II.106.2		pp. 61-75
10/30	MACDONALD	I-II.109.2-5		
11/2	<i>The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Charity</i>			
11/4	MASTRIANNA	II-II.2.3; II-II.2.7-8; 10		pp. 53-56
11/6	PHAM	II-II.23.1; II-II.26.2-7		
11/9	<i>The Moral Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude</i>			
11/11	REILLY, AMELIA	II-II.61.1-3; II-II.62.1-3;8		pp. 56-59
11/13	REILLY, THOMAS	II-II.129.1-4; II-II.151.1; II-II.153.1		
11/16	<i>The Mystery of the Incarnation</i>			
11/18	RULA	III.1.1-3; III.2.2	(pp. 163-181)	pp. 77-89
11/20	SCIMECA, SHORT	III.16.1; III.40.1; III.40.3; III.40.4	(pp. 192-197; 209-218)	
11/23	<i>The Mystery of Redemption</i>			
11/25	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS TODAY			
11/27	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS TODAY			
11/30	SINHA	III.46.1-4	(pp. 223-236)	pp. 91-104
12/2	SMITH, UNAL	III.47.1; III.48.2; III.53.1	(pp. 237-239; 245-248)	
12/4	CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC NO CLASS TODAY			
12/7	<i>The Mystery of the Church and the Sacraments</i>			
12/9	<i>The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Resurrection, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory</i>			
12/11	ZICK	III.61.1; III.62.1; III.65.1; III.75.1	(pp. 253-262; 267- 273; 285-290)	