



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 503 – Advanced Topics in Medieval Philosophy  
Lec 01, Topic 01: “Thomistic Topics”**

**Winter 2010**

**Lectures: Mondays, 17:30**

**Instructor:** J. J. MacIntosh, SS 1249, 403-220-3164, [macintos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:macintos@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 or by appointment. Note that this means what it says. You are not limited to Tuesdays 11-12, but you may need to make an appointment. If you email me to ask for an appointment, please be sure to tell me the time you are available.

**Three notes about Email:**

- (1) Students wishing to get in touch with me via email should ensure that “PHIL 503” 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 update this information online at your Student Centre as soon as possible. If you do not, and an email message is sent to the class, it will fail to reach you.
- (3) If you email me with a question which involves symbols, please submit the question as a pdf attachment – email tends to garble symbols.

**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 from time to time.

Jan 11	Administrative matters and introductory background
Jan 18	Aquinas on necessity
Jan 25	Aquinas on causality
Feb 1	Aquinas on infinity
Feb 8	Aquinas on God’s existence and nature
Feb 15	Reading Week – No Class
Feb 22	In-Class Test
Mar 1	Aquinas on ethics
Mar 8	Aquinas on time and the angels
Mar 15	Aquinas on the problem of evil
Mar 22	Aquinas on foreknowledge
Mar 29	Aquinas on the soul and immortality
Apr 5	Aquinas on human psychology
Apr 12	Aquinas: problems arising from earlier topics

At some point toward the end of term 15-20 minutes at the beginning of class will be used for the Faculty student survey.

**Marks:** Marks will be based on two tests. Each test will be worth 50% of the final mark. The first test will be an in-class test on Feb. 22; the second will be a take home test, given out on April 5, due April 12 (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 (hard copy or email) 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 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 3,000 and 6,000 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.

**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.)

**Texts:** All of St. Thomas's *Summa Theologiae* is available online, as is much of the *Summa Contra Gentiles*.

For ST start at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa>;

For SCG start at <http://www.nd.edu/Departments/Maritain/etext/gc.htm>;

For a variety of links go to <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook2.html>.

ST and SCG will be our main texts.

Students unfamiliar with the writings of Aristotle will benefit from reading John Ackrill's very short *Aristotle the Philosopher*, ordered as a text. Aristotle is one of the few—four or five—great philosophers who can, initially, be difficult to read without guidance. Ackrill presents a clear and helpful introduction and is well worth reading, even by those who have already studied Aristotle's works.

## Recommended additional reading:

Those marked with an asterisk are on the 3 day reserve list in the library.

- \*Aquinas, St Thomas, *Aquinas on Creation: Writings on the "Sentences" of Peter Lombard, Book 2, Distinction 1, Question 1*, trans. Steven E. Baldner and William E. Carroll (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1997)
- \*Aquinas, St Thomas, *De Spiritualibus Creaturis (On Spiritual Creatures)*, trans. Mary C. FitzPatrick in collaboration with John J. Wellmuth (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1949)
- \*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)
- \*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)
- Aquinas, St Thomas, *Philosophical Texts*, trans. Thomas Gilby, (London: Oxford University Press, 1951)
- \*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)
- \*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)
- \*Aquinas, St Thomas, *Quæstiones de Anima (Questions on the Soul)*, trans. James H. Robb (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1984)
- \*Aquinas, St Thomas, *Quodlibetal Questions 1 and 2*, trans Sandra Edwards, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, 1983.
- \*Copleston, F. C. *Aquinas* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1955)
- \*Copleston, F. C.: *A History of Medieval Philosophy* (London: Methuen, 1972). There is also the relevant volume in Copleston's multi-volumed history: but *A History of Mediæval Philosophy* contains interesting matter not to be found in the larger work.
- 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).
- \*Leaman, Oliver, *An Introduction to Medieval Islamic Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985)
- Leaman, Oliver, *Moses Maimonides* (London: Routledge, 1990)
- \*Maimonides, Moses, *The Guide for the Perplexed*, trans. M. Friedlander (New York: Dover, 1956)
- \*Marenbon, John, *Later Medieval Philosophy (1150-1350)* (London: Routledge, 1987)
- 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)

As much by and about Aristotle as you can manage: the more the better. Particularly recommended are: *De Anima*, *De Interpretatione*, the *Nicomachean Ethics*, and as much of the *Metaphysics* and *Physics* as time and comprehension conjointly allow. As usual, students at this level will be expected to find and read relevant secondary literature themselves.

**Students' Union:** The Students' Union has requested that instructors put the name of the appropriate Faculty Representative on course outlines in order to facilitate student consultation with the Students' Union. The Faculty Representative for Humanities this year is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, 220-3913, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca).

**Students with Disabilities:** following is the University's statement regarding students with disabilities that may adversely affect their academic performance:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please 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

**Plagiarism:** It is not plagiarism to use, expand, or alter the argument of another person, provided that the source is clearly indicated. Giving your sources has three functions: first, it shows that you are not indulging in casual theft, hoping to pass off someone else's hard won ideas as your own; secondly, it allows your readers to check the matter out for themselves; and thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, it will allow *you*, on some future occasion, to find the original of a worthwhile but only half-remembered, point. I do not expect plagiarism to be a problem in this particular class, but plagiarism is unfortunately a problem in our university and I hereby, *pro forma*, draw your attention to the University statement concerning

### **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 is an extremely serious offence. 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.