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# Phil 6200

## Aquinas's Philosophical Theology

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**Time & Place:** Thurs. 2.30-4.20, Uris 303

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**Office:** Goldwin Smith 320

philosophy.natebulthuis.com/aquinas

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### Course Description

Thomas Aquinas (1224–1274) was perhaps the greatest philosopher of the medieval period, and was certainly one of the greatest thinkers in human history. Among the first in the Latin medieval world to have access to the whole of Aristotle's corpus from the very beginning of his education, Aquinas was a highly systematic thinker, integrating philosophy and theology together in a thoroughly Aristotelian worldview. In this course, we will focus on Aquinas's philosophical theology, though the systematic nature of his thought will allow us to consider other aspects of his philosophical program as well. Topics addressed include theology as a scientific enterprise, religious epistemology, the nature of religious discourse, truth, divine simplicity, divine foreknowledge and future contingents, and divine goodness and human flourishing, among others.

### Readings

Most of Aquinas's corpus in English translation (including all of the texts assigned in this course) can be found online through the Past Masters database. The database can be accessed here:

<http://pm.nlx.com/>

(N.B.: Off-campus use of the database requires you to access it via the library website, or Passkey)

Material not on the Past Masters database will be made available via the course website, denoted by its enclosure in square brackets (e.g. [CSL I.1.1-4]).

The following key will be helpful in locating the weeks' readings

APo	Commentary on the Posterior Analytics
DQT	Disputed Questions on Truth
DT	Commentary on Boethius' De Trinitate
OBE	On Being and Essence
SCG	Summa Contra Gentiles
ST	Summa Theologiae
M	Commentary on the Metaphysics

I will also make a Latin edition of the relevant texts available on the course website.

The secondary literature on Aquinas's philosophical theology is vast. I will make a bibliography of a small portion of that literature available on the website, updating as the semester proceeds. I will also post any secondary literature recommended or required for this course on the website.

### Course Requirements

*Presentation:* You will be required to provide one 45 minute presentation at some point during this course. Presentations will begin on week 4. A signup sheet will be distributed during the second week of class.

*Papers:* A final paper, due the day of the scheduled exam, which must be at least 15 pages in length for undergraduates / 20 pages in length for graduates. A draft of this paper will be due at the start of Thanksgiving break.

	Topic	Reading(s)
Week 1	Aquinas's Philosophy of Science	Apo I:4-6, 17, 23; II:20
Week 2	Faith and Sacred Doctrine as a <i>Scientia</i>	SCG I:1-9; ST Ia.1.1-8; Ia.12.1, 4, 12; IIaIIae.1.1-2, 4-5; 2.1-10; 4.1-2, 5, 8; 6.1-2; 8.1-4 ; 9.1-3; DT 2.2-3; 3.1-2
Week 3	Natural Theology and the Existence of God	SCG I:10-13; ST Ia.2.1-3; DT 1.2, 4
Week 4	Natural Theology and the Existence of God	SCG I:10-13; ST Ia.2.1-3; DT 1.2, 4
Week 5	<i>Via Negativa:</i> Knowing What God's Essence Is Not	SCG I:14, 22, 24-25; IIIa:51-55; OBE 1, 4-5
Week 6	<i>Via Negativa:</i> Knowing What God's Essence Is Not	SCG I:14, 22, 24-25; IIIa:51-55; OBE 1, 4-5
Week 7	Analogical Predication	SCG I:28-36; II:11-14; ST Ia.13.1-12
Week 8	The Univocity of Being in Late Medieval Philosophy	Scotus, <i>Ordinatio</i> , I, d. 3, q. 1
Week 9	Divine Simplicity	SCG I:15-28; 42-43; ST Ia.3
Week 10	The Divine Intellect	SCG I:44-59, 63-78; ST Ia.14.1-16; DQT 2.1-3, 12-13
Week 11	God's Will: Divine Free Choice	SCG I:86-90
Week 12	The Divine Will and Human Free Choice	SCG I:79-85
Week 13	The Divine Will and Human Free Choice	SCG IIIa:69-77
Week 14	Divine Goodness and the Aim of Human Existence	SCG IIIa:17-40, 48, 51-55