



RGT 3553/6553 HS

This course examines Thomas Aquinas' systematic theology of the Incarnation as it is presented in the *tertia pars* of the *Summa Theologiae*: progressing from first principles, Aquinas leads the student to an encounter with the living Christ in His mysteries. The course teaches a method of close textual reading, and proposes an interpretation of Aquinas' own method that distinguishes and holds together doctrinal judgments and systematic understanding.

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Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course at the 3000-level will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. General Academic Skills

- a. demonstrate a basic grasp of the dialogue between a theological method and Christian doctrines.
- b. demonstrate the basic skills required for reading and interpreting a religious and theological classic such as the *Summa Theologiae*.
- c. in order to constructively answer most general questions about Aquinas encountered in pastoral settings.

2. Understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines

- a. discuss some of the systematic interrelation between Christology and soteriology, along with pastoral implications, in order to constructively answer most general theological questions encountered in pastoral settings..

3. Personal and Spiritual Formation

- a. participate actively in the transformative dynamic of *sacra doctrina* as it is understood by Thomas Aquinas.

4. Ministerial and Public Leadership

- a. participate actively in the transformative dynamic of *sacra doctrina* as it is understood by Thomas Aquinas.

Students successfully completing this course at the 6000-level will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. General Academic Skills

- a. demonstrate a grasp of the dialogue between a theological method and Christian doctrines, in order to deliver a lecture at the introductory level.
- b. demonstrate the skills required for reading and interpreting a religious and theological classic such as the *Summa Theologiae*, in order to interpret texts on their own scholarly authority.

2. Understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines

- a. discuss some of the systematic interrelation between Christology and soteriology, along with pastoral implications, in order to deliver a lecture at the introductory level.

3. Personal and Spiritual Formation

- a. participate actively in the transformative dynamic of *sacra doctrina* as it is understood by Thomas Aquinas.

4. Ministerial and Public Leadership

- a. participate actively in the transformative dynamic of *sacra doctrina* as it is understood by Thomas Aquinas.

Assignments and Grading

Common Assignments

1. Exposition of the ductus and skopos of the IIIa of the *Summa Theologiae*. Specific Instructions for BD and AD students are found in the assignments section of the course website. **Due Week 3.**
2. Text Study. Specific Instructions are on the course website. **Due Week 8.**

Additional assignments for BD students

1. Two learning reports, one at mid term and one at the end of term. Instructions on the website. **Due Weeks 6 and 12.**
2. Take Home Exam. **Due Exam Week.**

Additional assignments and activities for AD students

1. Lesson Plan and Lecture. AD students will prepare and deliver a one hour lecture in class, according to the lesson plan provided on the course website. **Due on the day of your lecture.**
2. Take home Essay. **Due Exam Week.**

ALL papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date, and no later than 4:30 p.m. the next day, in my mailbox at 100 Wellesley Street West. NO late papers will be accepted, except for documented medical (or other emergency) reasons. **PLAN AHEAD!**

Summary of Course Evaluation (basic degree):

Ductus and Skopos	20%
Text Study	20%
2 Learning Reports @ 15% each	30%
Take Home Exam	30%

Summary of Course Evaluation (advanced degree):

Ductus and Skopos	15%
Text Study	15%
Lesson Plan and Lecture	25%
Take Home Essay	45%

Other Information

The course website includes general guidelines for all assignments and a statement of classroom etiquette. I expect you to read and apply these documents. You will also find a general bibliography for the course.

Class Textbook

Summa Theologiae, Volume 48: The Incarnate Word (IIIa 1-6) , by Thomas Aquinas. [*On sale at Crux Books*] **required**

Other Helpful Resources

Rik van Nieuwenhove and J. Wawrykow, editors, *The Theology of Thomas Aquinas* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2005)

Jean-Pierre Torrell, O.P., *Saint Thomas d'Aquin, maître spirituel* (Fribourg: Éditions Universitaires, 1996)

Joseph Wawrykow, editor. *The Westminster Handbook to Thomas Aquinas* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2005)

Schedule of Readings

Week 1 (January 5) : Introductory Lecture: Aquinas' Context and Method

Leonard Boyle, O.P., "The Setting of the *Summa Theologiae* of Saint Thomas - Revisited", in *The Ethics of Aquinas*, S. Pope, editor (Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2002), pages 1-16.

Bernard McGinn, *The Flowering of Mysticism* (New York: Crossroad Herder, 1998), pages 1-12.

A. N. Williams, "Mystical Theology Redux: The Pattern of Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*", *Modern Theology* 13:1, January 1997, pages 53-74.

Week 2 (Jan. 12) : Aquinas' Method, part II

Gilles Mongeau, S.J., "The Spiritual Pedagogy of the *Summa Theologiae*", *Nova et Vetera* 2:1 (2004), pages 91-114.

Gilles Mongeau, S.J., "Classical Rhetoric and the Control of Elemental Meaning" in *Meaning and History in Systematic Theology*, John D. Dadosky, editor (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2009), pages 353-374.

Gilbert Narcisse, O.P., "Les enjeux épistémologiques de l'argument de convenance", in *Ordo Sapientiae et Amoris*, C.J. Pintos de Oliveira, O.P., editor (Fribourg, Suisse: Editions Universitaires de Fribourg, 1993), pages 143-167.

Leo J. Elders, O.P., "Thomas Aquinas and the Fathers of the Church", in *Reception of the Church Fathers in the West*, (Leiden : E J Brill, 1997) vol 1, p 337-366.

Week 3 (Jan. 19) : Aquinas' Christology, an Introduction

Jean Pierre Torrell, O.P., *Saint Thomas Aquinas: Spiritual Master*, R. Royal, translator (Washington: CUA Press, 2003), pages 101-152 [in the original French edition, read pages 133-202]

Timothy McDermott, editor, *Summa Theologiae: a Concise Translation* (Allen, TX: Christian Classics, 1991), pages 519-540.

Thomas Aquinas, "Foreword" to the IIIa pars (page 3)

Week 4 (Jan. 26) : The Fittingness of the Incarnation (Question 1, articles 1 and 2)

Week 5 (Feb. 2) : Fittingness, cont'd (Question 1, articles 3-6)

Week 6 (Feb. 9) : The Union Itself (Question 2, articles 1-6)

Reading Week (February 16)

Week 7 (Feb. 23) : The Union Itself, cont'd (Question 2, articles 7-12)

Week 8 (March 2) : The Union and the Person (Question 3)

Joseph Wawrykow, "Wisdom in the Christology of Thomas Aquinas", in *Christ Among the Medieval Dominicans*, K. Emery and J. Wawrykow, editors (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1998), pages 175-196).

Week 9 (Mar. 9) : The Union and the Nature Assumed (Question 4, articles 1 and 2)

Week 10 (Mar. 16) : The Union and the Nature, cont'd (Question 4, articles 3-6)

Week 11 (Mar. 23) : The Parts Assumed (Question 5)

Week 12 (Mar. 30) : The Order of Assumption (Question 6)