

**TESP 143: THEOLOGY AND ETHICS OF THOMAS AQUINAS
WINTER QUARTER 2014**

SECTION: 94516

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David DeCosse

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OFFICE: Arts and Sciences, Room 172 (in the Ethics Center)

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 in Kenna 307 and by appointment.

PLEASE NOTE THAT REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL BE IN KENNA 307, NOT IN MY ETHICS CENTER OFFICE; HOWEVER, I CAN MEET AT OTHER TIMES IN THE ETHICS CENTER.

CLASS DAY/TIME: MWF 9:15 – 10:20 a.m.

CLASSROOM: Kennedy 108

Academic Integrity: All standards of academic integrity at Santa Clara University will be strictly adhered to. Failure to observe these standards will result in failure of the course. Students will be asked in the first week of this class to write out, sign, and turn in the following honor pledge:

“I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to uphold this commitment in all of my work in this class.”

*****This course fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement for a Religion, Theology, and Culture 3 class. It does NOT fulfill the Core requirement in ethics.*****

*****This course also can be counted for the Applied Ethics Pathway.*****

Learning Objectives for Religion, Theology, and Culture 3:

- Identify diverse perspectives and evaluate ethical positions on contemporary questions
- Evaluate and apply insights from the study of religion to open-ended questions facing contemporary society.

Required Texts:

- Selections from the Summa Theologica by Thomas Aquinas; selections are available at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>

Please note: The Summa Theologica is Thomas Aquinas’s massive and great work. We will be reading a selection of what are called “articles” from the Summa. In particular, we will be reading articles from sections of the work. These sections are Summa Theologica I, Summa Theologica I-II, Summa Theologica II-II, and Summa Theologica III. So the corresponding abbreviations on the syllabus read ST I, ST I-II, ST II-II, and ST III.

- Aquinas’s Ethics: Metaphysical Foundations, Moral Theory, and Theological Context by DeYoung, McCluskey, and Van Dyke (University of Notre Dame, 2009)
- Readings posted on Canvas

Requirements:

- Class Participation: 20% of final grade
- Midterm Exam: 20% of final grade
- Midterm 5-Page Paper: 20% of final grade
- Final Exam: 40% of final grade (EXAM WILL BE TAKE-HOME)

Success in the Course: To be successful in this course, it is necessary to come to each class prepared. That, of course, is a truism. But, in this course, it really is the case. By being prepared, I especially mean that a student has considered the reading in light of the “focus question(s)” (see below for more on focus questions) for that particular class. The reason this preparation is the key to success is that the exams and paper will be using the focus questions pretty much verbatim. So, if you prepare for each class and use the time in class to deepen your knowledge and critical view of Aquinas’ thought, you will be that much readier to be successful when it comes time for the exams and paper. Plus, there is not a great deal of reading in this course. The idea with the reading is to have you dive deeply into it, not spread yourself too thinly around it.

A Note on Class Participation: Discussion in class is a crucial aspect of TESP 143. Hence, students are required to complete all reading before class for which reading is assigned; to consider the reading in light of the “focus question” assigned for each class; and to be prepared to discuss the reading in class. Only two unexcused absences from class permitted without resulting in reduction in grade. Also, texting or similar distractions during classtime will result in a lower class participation grade. Class participation grades will also be evaluated in light of standards for deliberation set forth in John Gastil’s book Political Communication and Deliberation (we will discuss those standards on the first day of class). Please let me know if you find speaking up in class difficult: I would be happy to work with you on this. 20 percent of final grade. Class participation grades will be handed out at the time of each mid-term.

A Note on the Midterm Exam and Midterm Paper: The exam and paper questions are meant to assess each student’s grasp of the details of the arguments of Aquinas and of commentators on his work; to require each student to compare and contrast these arguments; to require each student to bring his or her own convictions about the right and the good and about religion into conversation with our texts; and to require each student to assume the responsibility of articulating his or her assessment of the open-ended question at hand. 40 percent of final grade (20 percent each). Student exams and papers will be evaluated on the basis of clear thesis statements and well-organized essays; accurate description of key points in the reading material from Aquinas; a cogent and persuasive argument on behalf of one’s own interpretive position; and the clarity of one’s writing (grammar and spelling count!).

A Note on the Final Exam: The final exam will be comprehensive of the entire quarter. The exam will pose questions and be evaluated in a fashion consistent with the midterm exercises, as described immediately above. 40 percent of final grade. The final exam will be cumulative of the whole course.

Disability Accommodation Policy: To request accommodation for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in the Drahmman Center in Benson, Room 214 at 554-4111; TTY 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodation.

Classes:**January 6:****Introduction: What is Your Purpose in Life?**

- _____ Tips on Reading Thomas Aquinas (in-class handout; Canvas)
- _____ Summa Theologica I-II Question 1, Article 1: “Whether It Belongs to Man to Act for an End?”; please note how this article – and all articles – will be abbreviated so that it reads: ST I-II Q1, A1; this selection from the Summa – and all selections from the Summa – are available online at the URL provided above
- _____ Glossary of Key Terms (in-class handout; available on Canvas)
- _____ Review of John Gastil on deliberation/class discussion

January 8:**The Life of Thomas Aquinas: From Adolescent Challenge to a Life’s Work That “Seems to Me as Straw in Comparison with What I Have Seen”**

- _____ Thomas O’Meara, Thomas Aquinas: Theologian, pp. 1-32. (Canvas)
- _____ Selections from Jean-Pierre Torrell, O.P., Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Person and His Work, pp. 16-17 and 289-95 (Canvas)
- _____ In-Class Listening: “Pange Lingua,” a hymn written by Thomas Aquinas

January 10:**Morality and the Existence of God: Thomas Aquinas’ Five Ways**

- _____ ST I Q2, A3: “Whether God Exists?”
- _____ “The Metaphysics of Human Nature” in Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 18-20
- _____ “Thomas Aquinas’ Proofs” from The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins, pp. 100-103 (Canvas)
- _____ On Thomas’ Proofs for the Existence of God, from the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – this reading is NOT REQUIRED but it may help you understand the reading from the Summa for today (Canvas)
- _____ In-Class Viewing: “The Galaxy Song” by Monty Python; available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWVshkVF0SY>

January 13:**Aquinas, the God Beyond Names, and the “Fatherhood” of God**

- _____ ST I Q13, A1: “Whether a Name Can Be Given to God?”
- _____ “Ancient Story, New Chapter,” from Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God by Elizabeth Johnson, pp. 7-24 (Canvas)

JANUARY 15: *CLASS VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS*******January 15:****Body, Soul, and Gender**

- _____ ST I Q76, A5: “Whether the Intellectual Soul is Properly United to Such a Body?”
- _____ “Soul and Body” in Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 13-18 and 27-40
- _____ “How the Body Matters,” from Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics by Margaret Farley, pp. 110-132 (Canvas)

January 17: Body, Soul, and Gender II

- ST I Q92, A1: “Whether the Woman Should Have Been Made in the First Production of Things?”
- ST I Q93, A4: “Whether the Image of God is Found in Every Man?”
- “Whether Gender Matters,” from Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics by Margaret Farley, pp. 133-149 (Canvas)

***** January 20: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY: NO CLASS*****

January 22: What is Happiness?

- Book I, Nicomachean Ethics, by Aristotle; pp. 3-19 (Canvas)
- “The Sandra Bullock Trade,” by David Brooks, March 29, 2010, The New York Times; available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/30/opinion/30brooks.html>

January 24: What Is Happiness – II?

- ST I-II Q1, A1: “Whether It Belongs to Man to Act for an End?”
- ST I-II Q1, A6: “Whether Man Wills All, Whatsoever He Wills, for the Last End?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 69-78

January 27: What Is Happiness – III?

- ST I-II Q2, A1: “Whether Man’s Happiness Consists in Wealth?”
- ST I-II Q2, A2: “Whether Man’s Happiness Consists in Honors?”
- ST I-II Q2, A3: “Whether Man’s Happiness Consists in Fame or Glory?”
- ST I-II Q2, A4: “Whether Man’s Happiness Consists in Power?”
- Selection from “Adam Smith and Consumerism’s Role in Happiness: Modern Society Re-Examined” by Michael Busch; (Canvas)

January 29: Human Action I: Thomas on Freedom of the Will

- ST I-II Q6, A1: “Whether There is Anything Voluntary in Human Acts?”
- ST I-II Q6, A2: “Whether There is Anything Voluntary in Irrational Animals?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 115-125
- In-Class Viewing: “Super-Human Triathlon Sprint Finish”; available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo-nbnw8zSI>

*****EXTRA CREDIT: “A STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE: A STORY OF CONSCIENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES,” BY ROY BOURGEOIS, 7 P.M., JANUARY 29, WIEGAND ROOM, ARTS AND SCIENCES BUILDING*****

January 31:

Human Action II: Neuroscience and Freedom of the Will

- Review ST I-II Q6, A1 and A2 (from previous class)
- “Why You Don’t Really Have Free Will,” by Jerry Coyne, USA Today, January 1, 2012; available at <http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/STory/2012-01-01/free-will-science-religion/52317624/1>
- In-Class Viewing: “The God Gene,” by John Cleese; available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvijJTjZ8Rg>

February 3:

Human Action III: Good and Evil in Human Acts

- ST I-II Q18, A1: “Whether Every Human Action is Good, or Are There Evil Actions?”
- ST I-II Q18, A2: “Whether the Good or Evil of a Man’s Action is Derived From Its Object?”
- ST I-II Q18, A3: “Whether Man’s Action is Good or Evil From a Circumstance?”
- ST I-II Q18, A4: “Whether a Human Action is Good or Evil From Its End?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 90-96

*****EXTRA CREDIT: “WOMEN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES: CONSCIENCE AND THE NEW CATHOLIC FEMINISM” BY PROFESSOR HELEN ALVARE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, WIEGAND ROOM, ARTS AND SCIENCES BUILDING*****

February 5:

Human Action IV: The Primacy of Conscience

- ST I-II, Q19, A5: “Whether the Will is Evil When It is at Variance With Erring Reason?”
- Article by John Noonan, Jr. on Aquinas, Conscience, and Religious Freedom (Canvas)

February 7:

MIDTERM EXAM

February 10:

Are the Emotions Moral?

- ST I-II Q24, A1: “Whether Moral Good and Evil Can Be Found in the Passions of the Soul?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 85-89.
- “Where the Wild Things Are,” David Brooks, October 20, 2009, The New York Times; available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/opinion/20brooks.html?scp=1&sq=david%20brooks%20where%20the%20wild%20things%20are&ST=cse>

February 12:

Everything is Moved by Love

- ST I-II Q26, A1: “Whether Love is in the Concupiscible Power?”
- ST I-II Q26, A2: “Whether Love is a Passion?”
- ST I-II Q26, A3: “Whether Love is the Same as Dilection?”

- “Fall in Love...and It Will Decide Everything,” Pedro Arrupe, S.J.; available at <http://www.siena.org/April-2008/fall-in-love-and-it-will-decide-everything>

February 14: Virtue Suitably Defined

- ST I-II Q55, A1: “Whether Human Virtue is a Habit?”
- ST I-II Q55, A4: “Whether Virtue is Suitably Defined?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 110-115 and 129-137

*****February 17: NO CLASS: WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY*****

February 19: The Moral Virtues and the College Student

- ST I-II Q61, A2: “Whether There Are Four Cardinal Virtues?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 137-141
- Keenan, Virtues for Ordinary Christians, pp. 55-75

February 21: The Moral Virtues and the College Student II

- Keenan, Virtues for Ordinary Christians, pp. 76-95

February 24: The Virtue of Charity

- ST I-II Q62, A1: “Whether There Are Any Theological Virtues?”
- ST II-II Q23, A1: “Whether Charity is Friendship?”
- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 141-151

February 26: Charity and the Death of Christ

- ST III Q50, A1: “Whether It Was Fitting That Christ Should Die?”
- ST III Q49, A1: “Whether We Were Delivered from Sin Through Christ’s Passion?”
- Selection from “Redemption” in The New Dictionary of Theology (Canvas)

*****February 28: MIDTERM PAPER DUE*****

February 28: Thomas Aquinas and the Sacraments

- ST III Q60, A1: “Whether a Sacrament is a Kind of Sign?”
- ST III Q62, A1: “Whether the Sacraments Are the Cause of Grace?”
- Selection from “Babette’s Feast” by Isak Dinesen (Canvas)

March 3: Thomas Aquinas and Justice: Human Law / Gay Marriage

- ST I-II Q96, A2: “Whether It Belongs to the Human Law to Repress All Vices?”
- ST I-II Q96, A3: “Whether Human Law Prescribes Acts of All the Virtues?”

March 5: Thomas Aquinas and Justice: Natural Law / Gay Marriage II

- ST I-II Q94, A2: “Whether the Natural Law Contains Several Precepts, or One Only?”

- Aquinas’s Ethics, pp. 152-65

March 7:

Thomas Aquinas and Justice: Natural Law / Gay Marriage III

- “What Marriage Is – and What It Isn’t,” in Conscience and Its Enemies: Confronting the Dogmas of Liberal Secularism by Robert P. George, pp. 126-41(Canvas)
- “The Things We Share: A Catholic’s Case for Same-Sex Marriage,” by Joseph Bottum, Commonweal

March 10:

Truth and Lying

- ST II-II Q110, A1: “Whether Lying is Always Opposed to Truth?”
- ST II-II Q110 A3: “Whether Every Lie is a Sin?”

March 12:

Property

- ST II-II Q66, A1: “Whether It Is Natural for Man to Possess External Things?”
- ST II-II Q66, A2: “Whether It is Lawful for a Man to Possess a Thing as his Own?”

March 14:

Property II and Conclusion

- Selection from Lynn White, “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis,” Science 1967 (Canvas)