

St. Augustine's HEP
Catholic Classical Liberal Arts Program



Thomistic Philosophy

Upper School III
Wednesdays *and* Fridays at 9:00am

Mrs. Cindy Brown
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Objective: The purpose of this course is to provide you with a philosophical framework based upon the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Knowledge and understanding of Aquinas' philosophy will be acquired through in-depth study of parts of the *Summa Theologica*, with the ultimate goals of helping you learn to see the world as it is, think clearly, and analyze incisively, so that you may come to understand, to be formed by, and to love all that is true, good and beautiful. The class will have succeeded to the extent that you both learn what St. Thomas himself thought as well as become able to do what St. Thomas did (philosophize and theologize yourselves). The time in class will be heavily Socratic, as we dialogue about some of the most fundamental and important issues of human existence.

Course Outline

FALL SEMESTER:

Class/ Date	Topic:	Homework - Due at the beginning of class:
Day 1 9/10	Introduction to the course	None
Day 2 9/12	Review of Plato, Aristotle and Augustine	OPTIONAL: Listen to Peter Kreeft Lecture (38 min.) on Aristotle, Plotinus& Augustine: Aristotle, Plotinus, and Augustine - Peter Kreeft (Lecture 3) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCgQ59SVcD4
Day 3 9/17	Review of Plato, Aristotle and Augustine continued	Start reading <i>Aeterni Patris</i> (posted on bulletin board) and answer the reading questions
Day 4 9/19	<i>Aeterni Patris</i> - Why St. Thomas is so important	Reading Questions due for <i>Aeterni Patris</i> reading
Day 5 9/24	Life of St. Thomas	Read: "When Philosophy and Life are One" by Peter Kreeft (handed out in class) - 2 page paper Due

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Day 6 9/26	Metaphysical Overview - chart and definition of basic terms (esse/essence, form/matter, act/potency, substance/accidents, 10 categories...)	Read: Introduction to the <i>Summa of the Summa</i> (pgs. 11-22), and then carefully look over the glossary (pgs. 23-30)
Day 7 10/1	Existence of God	Read: Pgs. 53-70 in <i>Summa of the Summa</i> (Skim the footnotes, but you don't need to read them in detail)
Day 8 10/3	Existence of God	Read two articles by Peter Kreeft posted on bulletin board
Day 9 10/8	Nature of God: God's Simplicity and Perfection - Questions 3 & 4	Read: Pgs. 73-90 in <i>Summa of the Summa</i>
Day 10 10/10	Nature of God: Goodness and Infinity	Read: Pgs. 91-99 in <i>Summa of the Summa</i>
	BREAK WEEK	None
Day 11 10/22	Nature of God: Omnipresence, Immutability, Eternity, Unity	Read: Pgs. 91-112 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 12 10/24	The Nature of God	Review pgs. 73-112 in the <i>Summa</i> and start working on your midterm study guide
Day 13 10/29	Anselm's Ontological Argument	FREE for All Saints Day! Come ready for a discussion
Day 14 10/31	Midterm	Study for Midterm
Day 15 11/5	How God is known by us, and the Divine Names	Read: Pgs. 113-133 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 16 11/7	Pure and Mixed Perfections	No Reading - but think of some creative Pure Perfections for a contest!
Day 17 11/12	God's Knowledge and the Ideas	Read: Pgs. 134-143 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 18 11/14	Evil	Read: Pgs. 208-218 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 19 11/19	Truth and Falsity	Read: Pgs. 144-150 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 20 11/21	The Will of God	Read: Pgs. 154-163 in <i>Summa</i>
	BREAK WEEK	FREE

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Day 21 12/3	God's Love, Justice and Mercy	Read: Pgs. 164-170 in <i>Summa</i> -Paper 2 due - On Evil
Day 22 12/5	Providence and Predestination The Power of God	Read: Pgs. 171-179 & 228-230 in <i>Summa</i> Read: Pgs. 180-185 in <i>Summa</i>
Day 23 12/10	Final Exam	Study for exam
Day 24 12/12	Special Topics	FREE

Course Requirements:

The requirements for this course consist of regular attendance, completing all assigned readings, coming to class ready to answer questions about the readings, and completion of two papers and two tests. The grade for the Fall Semester will be broken down as follows:

- Reading Questions/Quizzes 20%
- Class Participation 10%
- Paper 1 10%
- Paper 2 20%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%

Papers:

Instructions for each paper are as follows. Each paper should be *typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1" margins*. Challenge level students will write longer papers and be graded according to a higher standard of writing and analysis.

Paper 1 (due Sept. 24): Write a 2 page paper in which you expound upon one or two ways that the philosophy and life of St. Thomas were one, based on Peter Kreeft's article. Reflect on how you need to grow, and practical steps that you can take, in order to have the same unity in your own life.

Paper 2 (due Dec 3): Choose one of the following and write a *questio* in which you a) raise objections, b) make your case and then c) answer the objections:

- A. Whether Satan is pure evil.
- B. Whether goodness and being are really different
- C. Whether evil exists as something on its own (i.e. has being)

Exams:

There will be both a midterm and a final exam. Comprehensive study guides will be given out ahead of time. Exams will consist of 5 sections: definitions, lists, true/false questions, short answer, and your choice of two longer essay answers.

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