

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## FALL 2010

### **PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES**

#### **LT 501 - Elementary Latin I (3)**

This course focuses on mastery of the morphology and syntax of classical Latin in order to provide students with a solid basis to read classical, patristic, medieval, and Renaissance Latin literature of all genres.

#### **PH 501 - Introduction to the Life and Works of St. Thomas Aquinas (3)**

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to an understanding of Thomas's authentic thought in light of contemporary Thomistic scholarship. Given that his life as a Dominican friar influenced his writings, particular attention will be paid to this relationship. Not all of Aquinas's works will be treated.

#### **PH 511 - Ancient Philosophy (3)**

The course begins with a detailed study of the fragments of the major Pre-Socratic philosophers. This study prepares the way for extensive reading of primary Platonic and Aristotelian texts, exploring the fundamental issues with which they are engaged and the central elements in their respective positions.

#### **PH 521 - Logic (3)**

With a view to practical application, this course will first examine elementary principles and informal fallacies before presenting an in-depth study of Aristotelian syllogistic logic. A secondary focus will be upon logic's relationship to philosophy in its instrumental and epistemological roles.

#### **PH 523 - Philosophy of Nature (Cosmology) (3)**

This course will offer an Aristotelian-Thomistic consideration of natural philosophy, the science that studies nature in general. The course will begin by identifying the subject matter and scope of this science, and it will then proceed to examine the principles, causes, and elements of natural things. Topics to be addressed include the phenomenon of change, the constitution of material things in general, the relationship between the soul and the body in living things, and the structure of time.

#### **PH 551 - Philosophy of Being (Metaphysics) (3)**

This course offers a Thomistic consideration of metaphysics, the science that studies being in general. The course begins by identifying the subject matter and scope of this science, the nature of being, its attributes, its divisions, and its causes. Topics to be addressed include the problem of the one and the many, the analogous nature of being, participation theory, and the existence and attributes of the first being, *vis.*, God. The course presumes that students have a basic familiarity with Aristotelian natural philosophy (supplementary readings will be provided for students who do not).

## **SACRED SCRIPTURE**

### **SS 581 - Elementary Greek I (3)**

First course in a two-semester sequence giving intensive grounding in the forms, vocabulary, and syntax of Attic and New Testament Greek; frequent exercises in reading and writing Greek.

### **SS 611 - Pentateuch (3)**

An introduction to the first five books of the Bible and to the ways the Old Testament has been interpreted in Catholic tradition. Special attention will be given to the history of the interpretation of the Pentateuch in Judaism and Christianity.

### **SS 621 - Prophets of Israel (3)**

An introduction to the prophetic books of the Old Testament, focusing on the three Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), and the twelve Minor Prophets (The Book of the Twelve: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi). The final part of the course will briefly introduce the Book of Daniel and aspects of the reception of the Old Testament prophets in early Jewish and Christian tradition.

Introductory questions to be considered include prophecy in the ancient Near East, the Former Prophets, the extent and canonical shaping of the prophetic corpus, the prophetic vocation, the prophet as mediator, teacher, and watchman, and the typological interpretation of history in Israelite prophecy.

### **SS 645 - Johannine Writings (3)**

This course offers an introduction to the Gospel of John, the Letters of John, and the Book of Revelation. Following a consideration of theories of authorship, dating, genre, and community regarding these works, each of the Johannine writings will be studied in terms of its historical, literary, and theological contexts with an emphasis on Christology, soteriology, and discipleship. Patristic and Thomistic readings will also be considered.

### **SS 671 - Introduction to Classical Hebrew I (3)**

An intensive introduction to Biblical Hebrew using Basics of Biblical Hebrew by Pratico and Van Pelt. In the first semester attention will be given to mastering the basics of Hebrew grammar, acquiring fluency in pronunciation, and building vocabulary.

### **SS/MT 749 - Poverty, Chastity, Obedience: Their Biblical Background (3)**

Studying the evangelical vows in their rich biblical setting implies a survey of the three notions that still shape the consecrated Christian life and the multiple dimensions of their meaning. The class will start by studying the development of such notions in the Bible. In so doing, the objective of this elective course is to show that the New Testament background of the religious *vows* is the culmination of a tradition started well before the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. These *vows* are also a concrete example of how the Holy Spirit continues deepening the biblical treasures throughout the Church's history, by inspiring men and women whose holiness is an illustration of God's call and human answer.

## **SACRED SCRIPTURE (CONT'D)**

### **SS 765 - Catholic Letters and Letter to the Hebrews (3)**

The focus of this course concerns the letters of James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude, and Hebrews (note that 1, 2, and 3 John are considered among the Catholic letters but will not be treated here, since they are included in the Johannine Writings course). For each letter issues of dating, authorship, audience, and genre will be considered, with the main emphasis on the theological and historical context of each letter in early Christianity. The Letter to the Hebrews will be featured given its complexity and significance. Some patristic commentaries on the letters will also be included.

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

### **ST 601 - Nature and Method of Theology (3)**

A study of the nature of theological thinking as an intellectual inquiry, arising from faith and having God himself and his promises as its proper subject matter. The course presents an interpretation of significant current trends in the light of the history of theology, with emphasis on medieval and modern theology. Shaped by Thomas Aquinas's conception of theology as *sacra doctrina*, the course advances proposals about such topics as revelation, scripture and tradition, faith and reason, the use of philosophy in theology, the nature of doctrines and their development, and the role of authority.

### **ST 611 - Creation and the Human Person (3)**

Divine gratuity is the point of reference for this theological study of the spiritual material and spiritual-material orders in their relation to God and to each other. In particular, the gifts of cosmos and the human person provide the axes for an inquiry into the meaning and purpose of creation, divine Providence, a theological appraisal of the cosmos, the problem of evil, and the nature and origin of the human person as image of God. St. Thomas Aquinas serves as master guide who himself provides principles for extracting the perennial from the passing in a theological domain where a balanced fidelity to the perduring and responsiveness to the contemporary are especially mandated.

### **ST 621 - Basic Elements of Christology (3)**

A systematic approach to Christology guides this course's review of key historical moments in the Church's theological elucidation of the mystery of Christ. After situating it within the larger theological domain and clarifying its nature, Christology is examined from the perspectives of a Catholic reading of Sacred Scripture, its development in the controversies and councils of the early Church, and St. Thomas Aquinas's synthesis in the *Summa Theologiae's* tract on Christ. Finally, modern developments and questions are critically addressed with an eye toward outlining an adequate Christology for the future. *Prerequisites: ST 601 - Nature and Method of Theology, ST 604 - Triune God and ST 611 - Creation and the Human Person.*

### **ST 631 - Sacraments: Theology and Initiation (3)**

An introduction to general sacramental theory by tracing various sacramental teachings from their biblical, patristic, medieval, and contemporary perspectives. The course will also address the scriptural, historical, and dogmatic developments of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and the implications for contemporary ecumenical discussion

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (CONT'D)**

### **ST 637 - Sacrament of the Eucharist (3)**

This course will present a basic theology of mystery of the Eucharist in light of Sacred Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Topics that will be studied include: the Biblical concept of sacrifice, the Christological origins of the Eucharist, Patristic theologies of the Eucharist, the Eucharistic theology of St. Thomas Aquinas, Tridentine and Modern developments concerning the Sacrifice of the Mass, and communion ecclesiology. Theological consideration will also be given to the relation of the Eucharist to various forms of liturgical rites, and to the canonical laws of the Church.

### **ST 641 - Liturgiology (3)**

A basic historical-theological study of the liturgy of the Church: the development of the liturgical rites of the early centuries; a consideration of such topics as ritual, symbol, environment, music; a review of the current liturgical discipline and documentation of the Church.

### **ST 723 - Eschatology (3)**

This course examines Catholic doctrine concerning the resurrection, the last judgment, heaven, hell, and purgatory. After studying parts of Aquinas's *Commentary on the Sentences* and *Disputed Questions on Evil*, we will review conciliar and papal teaching before turning to the modern eschatologies of Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and others. Requirements include one book review and two short papers.

### **ST 729 - Thomistic Methodology (3)**

This course is an introduction to the study of theology within the Thomistic tradition. The first part of the course consists of an introduction to the study of three distinct subject areas of theology: Scripture, Dogma, and Morals. Specialists in each area speak about the sources, structure, and methods of these disciplines, and important resources for S.T.L.-level work in them. The second part of the course covers the nature and method of theology as presented by Thomas Aquinas, particularly in the first question of the *Summa Theologiae*. The course also serves as a brief general introduction to Aquinas himself.

### **ST 731 - The Image of God in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century: Bonaventure, Albert and Thomas on Being Human (3)**

This seminar will study the evolution of understandings of the human condition during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, especially as manifest in the works of Bonaventure, Albert the Great, and Thomas Aquinas. These historical inquiries will be conducted with a view to addressing contemporary theological questions. Latin reading ability is desirable but not required.

### **ST 881 - Thomistic Seminar I (3)**

This two-semester, three-hour intensive introduction to the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas and the philosophy undergirding it is designed for those seeking a grounding in Thomistic thought. The *Summa Theologiae* serves as the basic textbook to help guide the student systematically through basic philosophical concepts, theological method, and the theology of God, creation, human person, the moral life, law and grace.

## **MORAL AND SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY**

### **MT 601 - Principles of Christian Moral Life I (3)**

A two-semester exploration of the Catholic moral tradition from scriptural, doctrinal, historical, and systematic perspectives. The doctrinal part is supplemented by a continual reference to Scriptural moral teachings; the historical survey probes the specific contributions of the various Christian ages to Catholic morality; the systematic treatment uncovers the foundational moral teachings of St. Thomas as expressed in the *Summa Theologiae* along with their metaphysical, anthropological, and theological roots. Happiness and human ends, actions and passions, and sin and virtue are placed within a moral setting enclosed within the larger domain of divine grace penetrating human nature. Contemporary theological approaches are examined in order to assess their contributions and shortcomings.

### **MT 611 - Theological Virtues (3)**

This class examines in depth St. Thomas Aquinas's teaching on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity as expressed in the *Summa Theologiae*. Textual analysis will serve to uncover the systematic power of the treatise on the theological virtues as well as the treatise's role within St. Thomas's larger theological vision. Attention is given to the Scriptural roots of this teaching on the theological virtues and the placement of these virtues within the Catholic theological tradition.

### **MT 707 - Seminar: Mysticism among Medieval Women (3)**

This seminar will examine the works of major medieval women mystics to discover their teaching on spiritual growth and development, the stages of prayer and the meaning of Christian asceticism. Each student will make a presentation of a single major work. Mystics such as Gertrude the Great, Mechtild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Poret, Hadewijch of Antwerp, Julain of Norwich, Catherine of Genoa and Catherine of Siena will be the subject of our study.

### **MT 732 - The Inner Way: Understanding & Practicing Eastern & Western Spiritual Direction (3)**

Spiritual direction was born in the Christian East, later developing its traditions in both East and West. Its history, methods, and contemporary application will be studied and discussed. Themes to be studied will be man / woman as image of the Divine Icon, growth in the likeness of God, the role of the Spiritual Mother and Father as “charismatic individual,” the attainment of purity of heart and intent, inner peace and healing, Sacraments and direction, the elder as gift bearer. Skills needed to engage in spiritual direction will be looked at. Topics to be discussed: growth in divinization, prayer, metaonia of heart, joyful-sorrow (penthos), the Jesus Prayer and the need of a personal desert, what constitutes a true orthodox spiritual director.

### **MT/SS 749 - Poverty, Chastity, Obedience: Their Biblical Background (3)**

Studying the evangelical vows in their rich biblical setting implies a survey of the three notions that still shape the consecrated Christian life and the multiple dimensions of their meaning. The class will start by studying the development of such notions in the Bible. In so doing, the objective of this elective course is to show that the New Testament background of the religious *vows* is the culmination of a tradition started well before the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. These *vows* are also a concrete example of how the Holy Spirit continues deepening the biblical treasures throughout the Church's history, by inspiring men and women whose holiness is an illustration of God's call and human answer.

## **HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

### **HT 611 - Patrology (3)**

This is an introductory course to the study of the Fathers of the Church, both East and West. Their points of view, culture, historical events, church life that fashioned their doctrines will be discussed in light of their writings. Particular emphasis will be placed on the monastic tradition which fashioned the living theology, mysticism and asceticism of these Churches. Present day emphasis on ecumenism and Church unity will be discussed in light of patristic doctrine and vision.

### **HT 762 - Resurrection Themes in the Greek Fathers (3)**

From the resurrection-event directly spring, in their uniqueness, Christian faith, Christian preaching, Christian theology, Christian worship and Christian ethics. The focus on these topics will be studied in the teaching of the Greek Fathers, and the effect they have had in the above listed areas. Topics to be reflected upon and studied in the Greek Fathers will be: life and death in the Risen Christ; understanding everlasting life; is hell conquered?; exaltation and glorification; transformation through union; Eucharist and the Holy Spirit; vengeance and victory. Selections from the pertinent Greek Fathers will be studied in their historical content and meaning for today.

## **PASTORAL STUDIES**

### **PS 661 - Ministries Practicum (1)**

A practicum taken in preparation for the ministries of acolyte and reader. History and offices of these ministries, the lectionary, public proclamation, and service at the altar.

### **PS 662 - Deacon Practicum (2)**

Taken in the semester before ordination to the diaconate, the practicum includes instruction in tasks of ministry which the future deacon will encounter in his summer and school year ministry.

### **PS 802 - Teaching and Learning: Theory and Practice (3)**

This introductory course begins with an examination of basic principles of Catholic educational theory for various educational contexts: adult catechesis, secondary education and collegiate teaching. Students will be introduced to effective teaching practices through topics such as styles of learning and teaching methods suited to those styles, preparing and delivering class lectures, teaching observations, Lectio Coram presentations, and other practical methodologies. During the practicum component of the course, students will offer class presentations and teach in a pastoral setting.

*Revised 7/21/10*