

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## FALL 2011

### **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)**

This survey course will introduce the student to the life and works of St. Thomas Aquinas. To this end, we will read Jean-Pierre Torrell's *Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Person and His Work* and examine closely samples of Aquinas' works. So as not to depend on a single author as our guide, we will also consult Joseph Pieper's *Guide to Thomas Aquinas*, and miscellaneous articles or selections from other publications. We will note the different kinds of works Aquinas produced, the dates and context of their composition, as well as Thomas' own spirituality and the evolution of his thought on particular points.

#### **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.

## **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.

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)**

### **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

### **ST 635 - Sacrament of Marriage: Theology and Canon Law (3)**

A study of the principal canons on matrimony in their historical and doctrinal context: the canonical definition of marriage and its ends and properties, preparation for marriage, impediments, mixed marriage, dissolution of the bond and annulments, convalidation, sanation (canons 1055-1165). Requirements in this course include active class participation, required readings, assigned cases and studies, and a final written examination.

### **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 733 - The *Filioque* (3)**

This course will examine the question of the Holy Spirit's procession from the Son, from the Cappadocian Fathers to the most recent magisterial documents of the Catholic Church, with particular emphasis on the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. The goal will be to understand the doctrine as well as the disagreement that has arisen with the Orthodox on account of the introduction of the *filioque* into the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed by the Latin liturgy.

## **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)**

### **ST 740 - The Rites of Exorcism (3)**

This course will examine the biblical cosmology, angelology and demonology of the Latin West as background to a study of the reformed *Rites of Exorcism* (2004 *editio typica emendata*). Attention will be paid to the structure of the rites, their pastoral application and the theology present in the rites and text. Special examination will be made of modern encounters with the Satanic in American culture. As well, a look at hauntings and other behaviors by spirits will be considered.

### **ST 745 - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Thomas Aquinas's Theology (3)**

This course aims to introduce the students to Aquinas's teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Aquinas's view, the Gifts account for the operation of the Holy Spirit in graced human action and they must be understood with as much precision as virtues can be in the Aristotelian teaching. Thus the separation of spirituality from moral theology is avoided. However this way of seeing things is historically traceable to Paschasius Radbertus and limited in influence, since it ceases in the XIVth century. Moreover the actual Magisterium of the Church says very little about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The historical origin and formation of the question will be presented first. Then Thomas Aquinas's texts will be studied in a chronological sequence. In the course of the study of the *Summa theologiae*, the connected issues, such as divine missions and grace, will be presented in order to have an organic view of Aquinas's theological understanding of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The conclusion will present the teachings of the Magisterium of this topic and offer the students a possibility to reflect on the worth of Aquinas's theological effort to articulate the presence of the Holy Spirit in graced action. Requirements: Class attendance and a twenty page paper due November 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

This seminar will consider the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas in dialogue with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will undertake our investigation by considering Aquinas' understanding of theology *as wisdom* over against the post-Enlightenment tendency to interpret religious experience in terms of practical ends. A central question to be treated in our study will be the place of metaphysics in theology. The *Summa Theologiae* will serve as the text of first recourse to Thomas' own thought.

In accord with the seminar format, class time will be devoted to discussion rather than lecture, and each student will submit a research paper at the end of the semester. The papers will be presented by the students in class toward the end of the semester.

## **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 731 - *Cura Animarum*: Confessional Praxis; Pastoral Spiritual Guidance; Selected Pastoral Issues (3)**

Designed for students preparing for the priesthood, this course will address the actual practice of hearing confessions with attention to the theological and pastoral principles central to this sacrament. The course will also treat the principles needed for the work of spiritual counsel and guidance to which the priest is called. Finally, the course will consider a number of pastoral situations that a priest will encounter in his sacramental ministry, e.g., pre-marital cohabitation, suicide, divorce. Lecture, readings, discussion and role-playing sessions will be required of all students.

### **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.

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

### **HS 501 - Early and Medieval Church History (3)**

Emergence of the Church in the early centuries, its maturity in the Christian Roman Empire, the formation of Christendom in the western Middle Ages to AD 1450. Particular attention will be given to the reading of primary sources and a familiarization with secondary sources.

## **HISTORICAL THEOLOGY**

### **HT 739 - Magisterium and Philosophy (3)**

In numerous interventions from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, the Magisterium has concerned itself directly with philosophical matters. This course consists of an examination of the major interventions, their background, the precise nature of their condemnations and exhortations, and their fruit in Catholic intellectual life. Topics in natural philosophy, metaphysics, and epistemology will be privileged, though social philosophy may also be considered. The course is also conceived as a study of a distinct chapter in the history of Thomism. Attention will be paid to the formation of the neo-Thomistic movement, its use by the Magisterium, the influence of the Magisterium on the Thomistic revival, and the persistence of Thomistic concerns in *Fides et ratio* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The purpose of the course is twofold: (1) to delineate specific magisterial interventions regarding specific philosophers or schools during this period; and (2) to identify those philosophical principles which, in the judgment of the Magisterium, are necessary for the Church's *sacra doctrina*.

### **HT 741 - Patristic Christology (3)**

This seminar examines texts from key figures of the early Church whose thinking has profoundly influenced the way Christians believe in and celebrate the mystery of Jesus Christ. Such thinkers include Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Athanasius, Gregory of Nazianzus, Cyril of Alexandria, Leo the Great, and Maximus the Confessor. The teachings of the ancient ecumenical councils on Christ are also considered. In addition to studying primary texts, students are to give background reports on pertinent secondary literature in the field. The seminar concludes with presentations of student research papers on topics within the broad field of patristic Christology.

## **PASTORAL STUDIES**

### **PS 601 - Introduction to Pastoral Ministry (3)**

An introduction to Christian ministry with attention given to both methods and models of ministry. A focus on the theology of ministry will be integral along with an introduction to the skills of theological reflection and pastoral communications. Students will be helped to use class discussions as a way of drawing together methods, group dynamics and theological themes in the exercise of ministry. A supervised pastoral placement in an approved setting is required.

### **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.

## **PASTORAL STUDIES (Cont'd)**

### **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.

*Subject to Change 8/17/11*