

PFIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2010

PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES

LT 502 - Elementary Latin II (3)

Students advance to the more complex syntax and irregular morphology of classical Latin as well as to the rudiments of rhetorical stylistics. Tools of historical linguistics are introduced so that students can master the changes in orthography that occur to the language between the classical and medieval period.

PH 514 - Recent Philosophy (3)

This course follows the trajectory of Modern philosophy beginning with Hegel's response to Kant's critical synthesis. Following upon the achievement of the German Idealists attention will be given to the various recent movements of more circumscribed ambition. These include, but do not exhaust: Existentialism, Phenomenology, Analytic Philosophy, Continental language-centered studies, and Twentieth-Century Thomism.

PH 524 - Philosophy of Knowledge (Epistemology) (3)

After an introductory survey of divergent views concerning the philosophy of knowledge, this course will treat of sense and intellect, knowledge, judgment, truth, linguistic-logical considerations, and noetic domains.

PH 526 - Philosophical Anthropology (3)

This course will offer a philosophical consideration of human nature. We will begin with an Aristotelian-Thomistic consideration of what nature is in general and how nature differs from art and technology. We will then proceed to consider ancient, medieval, and modern views of what human nature is, focusing on such issues as the relation of the mind to the body, the purpose of human life, and man's relation to technology.

PH 554 - Philosophical Ethics (3)

This course will provide an overview of major ethical theories as discerned by natural reason. We will examine four schools of thought: virtue (eudemian) ethics, natural law theory, duty (deontological) ethics, and utilitarianism. For each of these schools, we will focus on its views regarding such issues as the nature of human actions, the standards of right and wrong, and problems of moral judgment. Special attention will be paid to whether and how each theory may be compatible with Christian ethics.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

SS 582 - Elementary Greek II (3)

Second course in a two-semester sequence: frequent exercises in reading and writing Greek. Reading of selected portions of the Greek New Testament and Attic prose.

SACRED SCRIPTURE (Cont'd)

SS 632 - Wisdom Literature (3)

An introductory survey of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament, including Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes), Sirach, and the Book of Wisdom, as well as a consideration of wisdom traditions elsewhere in the Bible (e.g., Deuteronomy, the Psalms, the Song of Songs, and the New Testament). Prominent themes to be discussed include fear of the Lord, suffering, the problem of evil, and the personification of wisdom.

SS 640 - Synoptic Gospels (3)

The course considers the following issues: the history of the Synoptic problem and proposed solutions; the methodological advantages and limitations of 20th century criticism. Exegesis of selected passages will be used to provide in-depth understanding of the origins of the Synoptic traditions and their theology, ecclesiology and eschatology as seen in the life, Passion, and Resurrection of Jesus and in the early Church. This discussion will include the Christological titles, the miracles of Jesus, the parables of the Kingdom, the Sermon on the Mount, the Passion Narrative, and the Resurrection Narrative. The course will also introduce the Acts of the Apostles as the second volume of Luke's gospel.

SS 650 - Pauline Letters (3)

This course provides an introduction to the life and letters of St. Paul through the study of Paul's letters, the Acts of the Apostles, and some noncanonical texts. Introductory issues include the conversion, missionary work, and martyrdom of Paul, as well as the rhetorical aspects of ancient letters. The main part of the course focuses on a close study of each of the letters attributed to Paul in terms of early Christian communities and key theological ideas such as Christian anthropology, justification, grace, and eschatology. Patristic readings of some of the letters will also be considered, as well as later traditions of Paul in the early church.

SS 744 - The First Letter of John (3)

This course will consider in detail the First Letter of John from the point of view of its teaching on the activity of the believer. Among the purposes which guided the author of the 1Jn was that of establishing criteria by which believers could discern whether they or others were in fact holding fast to the truth, that is the revelation of the Father, as this had been transmitted to them by the preaching of the Gospel and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The course will exploit the teaching of this part of the New Testament tradition in order to arrive at a descriptive definition of the person as a moral agent whose source of activity derives from the knowledge of the truth. Knowledge of Greek encouraged.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

ST 604 - The Triune God (3)

The Old Testament revelation of God and Christ's revelation of God as Trinity are explored in their biblical, historical and systematic connotations. Particular emphasis is given to the doctrinal developments of the conciliar period. St. Thomas Aquinas's tracts on God as One and Three are then searched in terms of their interrelationship in order to learn how God's nature and attributes describe individually and communally the Three Persons, and to penetrate more deeply the mystery of the three-personed God. An evaluation of contemporary accents and concerns rounds out the inquiry.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)

ST 614 - Theology of Grace (3)

A brief Scriptural, systematic and historical entry into the theology of grace is followed by a detailed examination of the setting and path of the *Summa Theologiae's* tract on grace. Topics include the relationship of grace to law, nature and freedom; the kinds and causes of grace; the necessity and gratuity of grace; the Trinitarian indwelling and Uncreated Grace; justification and saving faith; merit in the perspective of God's saving power; and grace as the dynamic and liberating principle of the Christian life. Pivotal moments in the theological development of grace are studied, particularly Trent. The course concludes with a synopsis of contemporary approaches to the theology of grace.

Prerequisites: ST 601 - *Nature and Method of Theology*, ST 604 - *The Triune God* and ST 611 - *Creation and the Human Person*.

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 638 - Sacrament of Orders (3)

This course will examine the theology of the sacrament of Holy Orders, including the episcopacy and the diaconate, but focusing particularly upon the priesthood. Attention will be given to the historical origins of the three-fold hierarchy, to classical theologies of Holy Orders (particularly in the Thomist tradition), and to the spirituality of the priesthood. Modern magisterial teachings of the Church and contemporary questions and controversies will also be considered theologically.

ST 664 - Ecclesiology (3)

This course will examine the history of ecclesiology and church order from the Catholic and ecumenical perspective, as well as the contribution of St. Thomas. It will discuss the images of one Church in *Lumen Gentium*; models and church structure; memberships and ecumenism; clerical, religious and lay roles and their complementarity according to pertinent documents of Vatican II and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

ST 706 - Nature and Grace Controversies in Modern Catholic Theology (3)

This seminar will consider the modern Catholic theology of nature and grace as it emerged in the wake of the First Vatican Council, the controversial work of Henri de Lubac in the mid-twentieth century, and Catholic reflection after de Lubac, including diverse Thomistic thinkers. Readings include Scheeben, Garrigou-Lagrange, de Lubac, Rahner, von Balthasar, and various contemporary Thomists.

ST 754 - Theology of Mary and Joseph, Wife and Husband, Parents of Jesus (3)

This course is designed to synthesize two traditional branches of theology: Mariology and Josephology. What brings them together is the marriage between Mary and Joseph and their common end of preparing Jesus for his mission; Mary herself is aided for her mission by Joseph on account of their marriage.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)

ST 881 - Thomistic Seminar II (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 602 - Principles of Christian Moral Life II (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 612 - Cardinal and Moral Virtues (3)

A study of St. Thomas's presentation of the four major virtues -- prudence, justice, courage, and temperance -- and their refinements which enable the human person successfully to engage others, self, and the universe in both Christian and natural settings. Close textual analysis of the *Summa Theologiae* is coupled with systematic presentation and assistance from contemporary authors.

MT 622 - Catholic Social and Sexual Teaching (3)

Human sexuality related to the Christian teaching concerning marriage. Formulation of a comprehensive view of sexuality. Pastoral approaches to typical situations from youth through marriage. The problems of sexual deviation.

MT 734 - Sources for Christian Spirituality: Early and Medieval (3)

A study of the texts that form the basis for the Western spiritual tradition to discover the theological ideas and themes found there. This survey of spiritual literature will focus on the documents and writers of the New Testament era, the monastic authors, several of the Fathers, texts of the early and high Middle Ages and ending with the sources of the fourteenth century. The emphasis will be on reading original sources. Grading will be based on class participation, one paper and a final exam.

MT 746 - Catholic Bioethics (3)

After an overview of the moral framework that guides Roman Catholic medical ethics, this course will continue with a moral analysis of such issues as hospital ethics committees, abortion, tube feeding, treatment of defective newborns, reproductive technologies, human embryo research, homosexuality, euthanasia, problems of stem cell research and cloning human beings.

MORAL AND SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY (Cont'd)

MT 804 - Contemporary Catholic Moral Philosophy (3)

This is a seminar in which students will examine the works of Charles Taylor and Alasdair MacIntyre. Works by Taylor will include *Sources of the Self* and *A Secular Age*. MacIntyre's works will include *Whose Justice Which Rationality?*, *Three Rival Versions of Moral Inquiry*, *Dependant Rational Animals*, and *God, Philosophy, Universities*. We will read these texts with an eye to exploring the possibilities and the moralities involved in both evangelization and in the public defence of an objective moral order.

CHURCH HISTORY

HS 502 - Reformation and Modern Church History (3)

Events and ideas leading to the Protestant Reformation, special focus on the Reformation and French Revolution, discussion of the Church in the United States, of immigration and anti-Catholicism, and an examination of the Church in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

HT 738 - Bonaventure and Aquinas (3)

After an introduction to the nature and method of Bonaventure's theology, the course deals with a selection of topics in that theology, including Trinity, Christology, creation, and grace. Readings are drawn from all of Bonaventure's major systematic works (Breviloquium, Disputed Questions, Collations, Commentary on the Sentences, and Itinerarium) and are accompanied by parallel readings from Thomas Aquinas. The goal of the course is to consider Bonaventure's theology as a speculative proposal both in its own right and in light of Aquinas's theological synthesis. Attention is given to the influence of Bonaventure in contemporary theology.

PASTORAL STUDIES

PS 572 - Communicating God's Word (3)

Oral communication of Scripture and Liturgical Texts. The course is designed to develop a theology, methodology, and skill in communicating religious, scriptural, and liturgical texts. The course includes (1) oral interpretation of these texts, using video equipment and critique by teacher and class; (2) reports on assigned readings; (3) development of greater awareness of the importance of imagination, body, voice, and speech through particular exercises; and (4) self-evaluation and reflection on understanding of readings.

PS 622 - Book II: The People of God in Church Law (3)

This course introduces Book II of the *Code of Canon Law*, on the People of God. Topics covered include the rights and obligations of the Christian faithful, the organization of official ministry, the selection, training, ministry, and life of deacons and priests, and the hierarchical constitution of the Church. Theological-canonical reflections on the Petrine office, the Roman Curia, the structures and nature of the particular church, the office of bishop, the office of pastor, and the structure of the parish. The course concludes with a study of institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, with contemporary applications. Requirements in this course include active class participation, required readings, assigned cases and studies, and final written examination.

PASTORAL STUDIES (Cont'd)

PS 663 - Priesthood Practicum (3)

This course, taken in the semester before ordination, prepares for the practical experiences of priesthood. The pastoral nature of priestly ministry is reviewed. The Rites of Anointing, Marriage, Reconciliation and Christian Burial are examined, with an exploration of the pastoral sensitivities needed. Special focus is placed on the experiences of the newly ordained. There are discussions of various aspects of priestly ministry including liturgy, preaching, ministry with youth, styles of interaction with parishioners and staff, and the need for healthy living habits and a personal spirituality for the priest.

PS 672 - Preaching: Preparation and Presentation (3)

A laboratory which gives the preacher practical experience in constructing and delivering sermons and homilies. Video-taping and playback. *Limited to 8. Pre-requisite: PS 671 - Theology and History of Preaching or by permission of professor.*

PS 781 - Introduction to Islam (3)

If Islam has its origin in the Middle-East, it is no longer a religion of populations who live far away from our western societies. International events with their repercussions on our daily life and the immediate presence of Muslims in our society make it an obligation to learn about the Islamic faith and its holy book, the Koran (concerning family values, women, and politics). The personality of the prophet Mohamed and the practices of contemporary Islam will help us understand one of the most influential movements of our time.

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