

PFIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2012

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 512 - Medieval Philosophy (3)

In this course students will read important philosophic works by medieval authors as well as some historical and critical studies by more recent writers. St. Thomas Aquinas will receive special attention. The aim will be to bring medieval philosophers to light and to see the continuing relevance of the issues they raised and the answers they proposed.

PH 513 - Modern Philosophy (3)

A study of the development of the Western philosophical tradition beginning with the Renaissance through the French Revolution (1400-1800). Special emphasis is placed on the transformation of this tradition inspired by the competing Rationalist and Empiricist attempts to appropriate the results and methods of the Scientific Revolution. This course concludes with the resolution of this opposition effected by Kant's critical philosophy.

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.

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 784 - Introduction to the Septuagint (3)

An historical and theological introduction to the Septuagint as Christian Scripture that will include regular reading of the Greek text of the Old Testament. Topics to be considered include the origin and purpose of the Septuagint, its inspiration and canonicity, use of the Septuagint in the New Testament and Apostolic Fathers, recent translations of the Septuagint, and the place of the Septuagint in the life of the Church. Passages of the Greek text will be studied in each class meeting and the fundamentals of Koine Greek will be reviewed as necessary. Prerequisite: elementary reading knowledge of Koine Greek.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

ST 604 - 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.

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.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)

ST 636 - Sacraments of Penance and Anointing (3)

Theology Section: An introduction to the Economy of Salvation is followed by the scriptural basis and historical development of the theology of reconciliation, stressing the Church's realization of its own nature to counter sin. The section on Anointing then moves through the history of the sacrament to conclude with the theology contained in the new rite. *Canon Law Section:* The canons dealing with the administration of the sacrament of Penance, and sanctions in the Church, followed by a pastoral practicum. Students are given opportunities to function as confessors for a wide variety of practical cases, stressing the healing nature of the sacrament.

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 722 - Liturgy and Time (3)

This course will explore the relationship of time to salvation history, with a particular study of the liturgical year and the Liturgy of the Hours. Detailed historical examinations of the evolution of the liturgical year will feature prominently; a careful study of the reformed Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Rite will constitute the second half of the course.

ST 726 - Liturgy and Spirituality (3)

This course will examine the spiritual life offered in our participation in the Liturgy. A look at how the many kinds of participation – of married or single, of children, of the ordained, or of religious – are shaped by the Roman Rite's celebration of a unique synthesis of the mysteries of redemption will be the main project. The course will also study the history of "liturgical spiritualities" from sub-Apostolic times to the present.

ST 750 - Mariology (3)

The Gospel tells of an angel sent from God "to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:27). This course considers that virgin, particularly in relation to the mysteries of Christ and the Church. The first part of the course will consider Mary in Scripture and Tradition, with special attention to the Gospel accounts and to the development of teaching in the Fathers of the Church and St. Thomas Aquinas. The second part of the course will study the statements of the modern Magisterium, with emphasis on the Marian dogmas and on how Mary is portrayed during and after the Second Vatican Council. The third part of the course will consider select issues in Marian spiritual theology, such as arising from the liturgy, the rosary, and popular devotions.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Cont'd)

ST 882 - 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 710 - Moral Truth and Aesthetic Judgment (3)

This seminar explores the linkages between moral beauty and artistic truth in two ways. The first is more theoretical and involves working through the writings of theologians and philosophers such as Maritain, Hart, and Murdoch. The second requires a direct critical encounter between the student and the work of the artist. The student will critique the moral and theological vision implicit in specified instances of contemporary novels, short stories, poems, television dramas and film. The seminar will meet once each week for two hours when the assignment only involves reading and twice a week when the assignment requires viewing drama and film.

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 720 - Aquinas and the Fathers: St. Thomas's Engagement with His Patristic Sources (3)

St. Thomas Aquinas could be called the leading patristic researcher of his day. This seminar considers select studies of the presence of early figures (such as Augustine and John Damascene) and of early controversies (such as Arianism and Nestorianism) in the works of Aquinas. By uncovering Aquinas's interest in early Christianity, the course also considers how Aquinas can assist in the renewal of theological method today, especially in finding the deep underlying unity between patristic-*ressourcement* and scholastic approaches to 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 603 - Supervised Ministry (3)

This course is designed to facilitate the development of essential pastoral skills through lectures and student presentations. Students will deepen their ability to understand the context of ministry through social analysis. They will learn how to assess ministerial needs and develop a method in ministry through the use of verbatim and case study. Students will learn how to develop an effective pastoral plan incorporating their particular gifts in response to ministerial needs. Particular attention will be given to the emerging ministerial identity of the student and their developing habit of theological reflection. Students will learn professional ethics, pastoral goal setting, and program evaluation. *Prerequisite: PS 601- Introduction to Pastoral Ministry.*

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.

PASTORAL STUDIES (Cont'd)

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.

Revised 12/16/11