Course description: a study of the early philosophy of Karol Wojtyla (John Paul II) focusing on influences on his thought. His major work, the Acting Person, was published in 1969. Wojtyla’s philosophical formation and framework was that of Thomism, particularly through R. Garrigou-Lagrange and E. Gilson. But he developed a distinctive approach defined through the subject matter he studied (the acting person) and the supplemental methods he used for his study (phenomenology). We will following the suggestive comments by Josef Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), My Beloved Predecessor: “His point of departure was philology – the love of language -- combined with the artistic application of language, as a representation of reality, in a new form of theater. This is how the distinctive form of philosophy characteristic of current pope emerged. It is a way of thinking and dialogue with the concrete, founded upon the great tradition, but always in search confirmation and present reality. It is a form of thought that springs from an artist gaze and, at the same time, is guided by a pastor's care. And it is offered to man, to show him the way.” In this course we will explore these literary and artistic influences, the special interest in John of the Cross and religious interiority, the phenomenological ethics of Max Scheler, and the personalist dimension, especially in the Kantian formulation of a “personalistic norm.” His major work, The Acting Person, was published in 1969. We will read the earlier writings as well those short pieces in which he explains his project or his use of and critique of the thinkers mentioned above. We are seeking to understand how these aspects contribute to his Thomistic philosophy and to critically examine the coherence and consistency of these aspects of Wojtyla’s philosophy.
Books
Required:
Wojtyla, Karol. Poetry and Plays. Various

Recommended:

Requirements and evaluation
• Presentation with handout of key ideas and arguments in the texts.
• Papers (5-8 pp) on three of four of the following topics: (i) The influence and role of poetry and drama in the philosophy of Wojtyla; (ii) influence and role of religious interiority (John of the Cross) in the philosophy of Wojtyla; (iii) the influence and role of phenomenology (Scheler) in the philosophy of Wojtyla; (iv) the influence and role personalism/ Kantianism in the philosophy of Wojtyla. Due Feb 13, Mar 20, May 1. Each paper should examine primary texts and secondary literature.
• Option of final exam or development of paper(s) into a 20 page paper due May 8.
Introduction:
Ratzinger. *John Paul II: My Beloved Predecessor*. Pp. 3-29
Wojtyla. *Person and Community* pp. ix-xvi; 219-220
Simpson. *On Karol Wojtyla*, pp. 1-6

Part 1: The role of poetry and drama in the philosophy of Wojtyla
Wojtyla. *The Collected Plays and Writings on Theater*. (Taborski overview) pp. 1-11; (Wojtyla Writings on Theater) 371-394; (Taborski’s intro to each play) pp. 19, 75, 147, 267, 323, 365
Wojtyla. Poetry TBD and Plays, *Jeweler’s Shop*
Buttiglione. *Karol Wojtyla* pp. 1-17; 232-268
Schmitz. *At the Center of the Human Drama*, pp. 1-29
Billias. *Karol Wojtyla's Philosophical Legacy*. Pp 297-324
Ratzinger. *John Paul II: My Beloved Predecessor*. Pp. 47-54

Part 2: The role of religious interiority (John of the Cross) in the philosophy of Wojtyla
Selections from John of the Cross
Buttiglione. *Karol Wojtyla* pp 44-53
Schmitz. *At the Center of the Human Drama* pp. 30-57
Wojtyla. *Person and Community* pp. 209-217

Part 3: The role of phenomenology (Scheler) in the philosophy of Wojtyla
By and about Husserl TBD [Dan Wagner]
By and about Scheler TBD [John Schaff]
Wojtyla. *Person and Community* pp. 3-56; 73-94
Buttiglione. *Karol Wojtyla* pp. 54-82; 270-277
Simpson. *On Karol Wojtyla*, pp. 7-22
Schmitz. *At the Center of the Human Drama* pp. 30-57, 76-77
Billias. *Karol Wojtyla's Philosophical Legacy*. Pp. 45-100

Part 4: The role personalism/ Kantianism in the philosophy of Wojtyla
By and about Kant TBD
By and about personalism TBD
Wojtyla. *Man in the Field of Responsibility*. entire
Wojtyla. *Person and Community*. Pp. 57-72; 165-175
Buttiglione. *Karol Wojtyla* pp. 83-117; 278-292
Simpson. *On Karol Wojtyla*, pp. 46-67
Schmitz. *At the Center of the Human Drama* pp. 36-38; 42-48; 56; 64; 84

Conclusion:
Schmitz. *At the Center of the Human Drama* pp. 121-146
Buttiglione. *Karol Wojtyla* pp. 292-318
Billias. *Karol Wojtyla's Philosophical Legacy*. 33-44