Phil. 5338A, Thomistic Ethics: Aquinas, Summa theologiae, Prima secundae, Spring 2015
Class: Sullivan 101.
Office: and by appointment.

Preliminary Syllabus

Goals of the Course:
1. To understand the basic issues, conclusions, and arguments of Aquinas in Summa theologiae 1-2.
2. To understand in a detailed way certain selected texts from ST 1-2.
3. To understand Aquinas’s moral theory in a philosophically and historically sophisticated way.
4. To become familiar with the basic issues in the scholarship about Aquinas’s moral theory, since the neothomistic revival initiated by Leo XIII.

Requirements:
1. Final examination. (40%)
2. Research paper of 20-5 pages. (40%). Due on the day of the final examination. Late papers will not be accepted.
3. In-class presentations (20%): You will be asked to do several presentations. In each presentation you are asked to do two things:
   a. Written presentation: At the class meeting that precedes your presentation, you are requested to provide the class members and instructor with a written presentation in which you cover all articles within all the questions to be covered during your presentation. For each article you should: 1) state in 5 sentences (maximum) of your own the meaning of the question raised in the article, 2) state in 5 sentences of your own Aquinas’s thesis or answer to this question, and 3) sketch in 5 sentences of your own Aquinas’s most important line of argument in support of this thesis. In some articles, the main thesis is not a direct reply to the question raised. In this case, you may focus on the main thesis, as you understand it.
   b. Oral presentation, which consists in:
      1) Treatment of the Questions: First, give an overview of the questions considered that day: Give an exposition of the basic issues, conclusions, and connections among the questions in the text of Aquinas, covering all the questions considered that day. (Time limit: 15 minutes). Questions from the class and instructor follow.
      2) Treatment of the Articles: Detailed presentation on the main article(s) covered that day: Here you should include clarification of the question raised in each article, Aquinas’s answer to the question, other major theses presented by Aquinas in each article, Aquinas’s line of argument in support of each thesis, and the importance of this article within its question. The instructor will indicate which article for each class day’s reading he thinks the “main” article is. If you do not agree, please consult the instructor well before your class presentation, in order to determine which article you will cover in your class presentation. In deciding which articles are the ‘main’ ones, you should consult the instructor well before the day of your presentation. (Time limit: approximately 10 minutes per ‘main’ article). Questions from the class and instructor to follow.

Texts:
1. Thomas Aquinas, Summa theologiae, 1-2. Latin text is the Leonine edition, which has been reprinted many times. Also available on the Corpus thomisticum website: http://www.corpusthomisticum.org If you know Latin at all, you should bring the Latin text with you to class.
2. English translations: The best English translation is the first English Dominican translation, by the “Fathers of the English Dominican Province,” originally published in 1920. This translation has been updated and modified many times. Probably the best updating was done by Anton C. Pegis, but there are many others. Please bring to class all the texts scheduled for that class day. You are required to read all the texts of Aquinas in English translation, even if you are primarily working in Latin, as we will spend some time dealing with the translation of technical Latin terms and phrases.
3. Caveat: Please feel free to consult the later English Dominican translation, done in the 1960s, and published with Latin and English on facing pages. But you should NOT use this translation as the primary translation you read. It is not reliable for the kind of close textual study which we will follow in this course. The explanatory notes and
addenda in these volumes, however, are sometimes quite helpful.

4. Stephen J. Pope, ed. The Ethics of Aquinas. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2002. This a commentary on both 1-2 and 2-2, which in the main is quite good, and occasionally outstanding. It is highly recommended that you read the essay in this volume that accompanies each section of 1-2.

5. Books by Dr. Jensen. The three books by Dr. Jensen listed in the bibliography concentrate on 1-2, and are highly recommended. Dr. Jensen’s approach is less historical than mine, and less historical than most of the essays in Pope. His more systematic approach will be a nice contrast to my own. Quite often we agree on the most substantial points, but not always.

6. Houser, R.E. The Cardinal Virtues: Aquinas, Albert, and Philip the Chancellor. Toronto: PIMS, 2004. If we get to Aquinas’s Disputed Question on the Cardinal Virtues, at the end of the course, this is the translation we will use. But what you may find more important is the lengthy historical introduction, which covers a lot of material on the sources of Aquinas which it will be very helpful for you to know, as we go through 1-2. We will not have time to go over the texts of Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Augustine, Philip, and Albert, much as I would like to do so. I would recommend reading this introduction toward the beginning of the semester. Feel free to use a copy of the book on the reserve shelf for this course; or buy the book from PIMS Press http://www.pims.ca/publications/ordering-pims-publications or from Amazon.com.

Part I: Moral theory in the scientific theology of the Summa

12 Jan: Introduction
Topics:

1. Moral thought in the Western, Christian Tradition: John Rist on the “great error” and its consequences
   Read: Handout, from John Rist, Augustine Deformed: Love, Sin and Freedom in the Western Moral Tradition

2. How to read the Summa: sections, questions and articles
   Student presentations

3. Theology as a “science” 1: the major parts of the Summa
   Read: ST: Prologues to 1; 1-2; 2-2; 3
   ST 1.1.1-10 (main reading for today)

4. Moral theology in “scientific” theology
   a. Systematic theology: Hugh of St. Victor; Peter Lombard
   b. Moral works of Aquinas.
   Recommended reading:
   Handout: Thomas Aquinas: Structure of Major Works
   P. Rosemann, Peter Lombard: on Hugh of St. Victor, De sacramentis and Lombard, Sententiae

14 Jan: The Structure of Aquinas’s scientific theology
Topics:

1. Aquinas’s scientific theology: subject, principles, conclusions.
2. Issue of the praeambula fidei: philosophical knowledge useful for faith and theology
   Read: ST 1.1.1-10.
   //: In Sententiis I, Prologue; SCG 1, c. 1-9, 4, c. 1, Lectura Romana I, prologue.
   Recommended secondary works:
   Shanley, Brian J. The Thomist Tradition.
   C. 2, “Religious Knowledge”, p. 21-43: concentrates on the issue of the praeambula fidei, that is, the relation of philosophy to theology in Aquinas’s thought.
Part II: Human action for an end and for a last end.

19 January: Action for an end; existence of a last end
A. Action for an end
Read: ST 1-2.1.1-3.

Sources:
   Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, 1. 1-4
   Plato, Republic VI (505a-511e)

Topics:
1. Human action for an end (in finem).
2. Natural action for an end; human act for an end.
4. The circle of human action: “the end and the good”.

B. Existence of a final end
Read: ST 1-2.1.4-8

Topics:
1. Necessity of a final end.
2. My ultimate end, the ultimate end for humans, the ultimate end of the universe.
3. End as reality (finis cuius); and end as achieved (finis quo).
Sources: Aristotle, Physics 2.2. the source for Aquinas’s distinction between reality & realization of end.
   Aristotle, NE 1.5-12; 10, 6-8.

21 January: The nature of happiness (beatitudo)
Read: ST 1-2.2-5

Topics:
1. The reality that causes happiness: what it is not and what it is.
2. The subjective features of achieving happiness and the reality that provides for happiness.
3. Perfect and imperfect happiness.
4. Imperfect happiness: life of contemplation or life of action?

// Texts: SCG III. 17-63.

Sources:
1. Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy, Bks. 1-3.
3. Aristotle: achievement of goods; a final good.
4. Stoics, Augustine.

Secondary works:
Georg Wieland, “Happiness” in Pope 57-68
Ralph McInerny, Praeambula fidei, c. XX on De Lubac.
Shanley, Brian J. The Thomist Tradition.
   C. 6, “Religion and Morality,” Sec. 1 on “Thomistic Eudaimonism,” pp. 130-6: the view that there are two ends for humans and that an autonomous, philosophical Thomistic ethics is possible.
Part III: Action theory

26 January: Actions and human actions: natural and violent; voluntary and involuntary; free and un-free.
A. Read: ST 1.2.6-7.

Topics:
1. Aristotle on natural and violent motion; voluntary and involuntary motion.
2. Aquinas on voluntary and involuntary; free and unfree actions.
3. Development of will as a faculty of the soul: Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas on the powers of the soul.

Other primary texts:
- Aristotle, Physics,
- Aquinas, ST 1. 78-81.

Secondary works:

B. Human action: the panoply of acts involved.
Read: ST 1.2.8-9. Also, ST. 1.77-83.

Topics:
1. Sense perception and passions.
2. Intellectual acts, will acts, physical acts.
3. The human soul, its internal sensory powers, and the powers of intellect and will.

Readings:

Secondary works:

2 Feb: Elicited intellectual and will acts to the end (in finem)
Read: ST 1-2.10-12.

Topics:
- Willing, intending, and enjoying, and their correlative intellectual acts.

Secondary works:

4 Feb: Elicited intellectual and will acts concerning means toward an end (ad finem)

Topics:
- Choice, consent, and use, and their correlative intellectual acts, including deliberation.

Secondary works:

9 Feb: Commanding and using the body to perform human actions
Read: ST 1-2.16-7

Topics:
- Command and use of bodily means to perform human acts

Part IV: Good and evil in human actions

11 Feb: Four criteria for determining a good or bad action:
Read: ST 1-2.18.1-4

Topics:
1. Actions good in genus.
2. Actions good in species.
3. Actions good in circumstances.
4. Actions good in end.

Secondary works:

**16 Feb**: The interplay of genus, species, circumstance, and ends in determining the moral ‘object’ in evaluating human actions.
Read: ST 1-2.18.5-11

Topics:
1. How genus, species, circumstance, and further end affect the object of the moral act.
2. Proximate and remote ends, important and unimportant circumstances.
3. Hard cases.

Secondary works:
- Pilsner, Specification

**18 Feb**: Human action, interior acts, and exterior acts.
Read: ST 1-2.19-21

Topics:
2. Good and evil in the causes of actions, actions, and their consequences. Which is most important?

Secondary works:
- Pilsner, Specification

**Part V: Human passions**

**23 Feb**: The array of the human passions.

Topics:
1. The nature and kinds of passions.
2. Passions of the desiring (concupiscible) part of the sense appetite
   a. Love and hate.
   b. Pleasure and pain or sorrow.

**26 Feb**: Irascible passions.
Read: ST 1-2.40-48

Topics:
1. Passions of the emotional (irascible) part of the sense appetite
   a. Hope and despair.
   b. Fear and audacity.
   c. Anger.

Secondary works:

**Part VI: Intrinsic principles: powers and habits of the soul**

**2 Mar**: Habits.
Read: ST 1-2.49-54.

Topics:
1. Nature of habits.
2. Subjects of the habits.
3. Causes of habits.
4. Distinguishing the soul, its powers, and their habits.
Secondary works:

Part VII: Moral habits: virtues, gifts, beatitudes

4 Mar: Virtue
Read: ST 1-2.55-60.
Topics:
1. The nature of virtues.
2. Intellectual virtues.
Secondary works:

9-13 Mar: Spring Break

16 Mar: Cardinal Virtues
Read: ST 1-2: Q. 61.
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

18 Mar: Theological virtues
Topics:
1. Theological virtues: beginning the Christian life
2. Causes of virtues
3. “Mean” of virtues
4. Connections among virtues
Other primary connections:
Secondary works:

23 Mar: Gifts and beatitudes
Read: ST 1-2.68-70.
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

Part VIII: Evil, vice, sin

25 Mar: Sin and vice
Read: ST 1-2.71-74
Topics:
1. The nature of bad (malum), vice (vitium), and sin (peccatum)
2. Opposition of vice and sin to virtue
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

30 Mar: Causes and effects of sin and vice
Read: ST 1-2.75-89
Part IX: Extrinsic Principles I: Law

1 Apr: Essence and Kinds of Law
Read: ST 1-2.90-92
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

6 Apr: Eternal Law and Natural Law
Read: ST 1-2.93–94
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:
  Kossell, “Natural Law and Human Law,” in Pope 169-193

8 Apr: Human Law
Read: ST 1-2.95–97
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

13 Apr: Divine Law 1: Old Law
Read: ST 1-2.98-105
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

15 Apr: Divine Law 2: New Law
Read: ST 1-2.106-108
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

Part X: Grace

20 Apr: Grace: its nature
Read: ST 1-2.109-111:
Other primary texts:
Secondary works:

22 Apr: Grace: its causes and effects
Read: ST 1-2.112-114.

27 Apr: Disputed Question of the Cardinal Virtues
Read: On the Cardinal Virtues, art. 1, tr. Houser
Secondary Source: Houser, Introduction

29 Apr: Disputed Question on the Cardinal Virtues
Read: On the Cardinal Virtues, art. 2-4, tr. Houser
Secondary Source: Houser, Introduction
Bibliography
for Aquinas, Ia-IIae

Secondary Sources:

Books:


_____. Thomism. Trans. L. Shook and A. Maurer. Toronto: PIMS, 200X.

Grisez, Germain.


_____ First Grace: Rediscovering Natural Law in a post-Christian World.


K447.T452 L57 1996


Osborne, Thomas M. Jr.


Books:


