This course focuses on the major philosophical ideas of Thomas Aquinas by means of a seminar-style treatment of several of the most important texts from Aquinas's works. This course functions as a Junior Seminar for philosophy majors and is required of philosophy minors as well. At the completion of the course, the successful student will be able to: 1) express by both written and oral means an understanding of the major philosophical positions of Aquinas regarding God, the human person, knowledge and ethics, and be able to relate these positions to one another, 2) identity and soundly interpret texts from a variety of works of Aquinas, and 3) express an understanding of Aquinas's view of the nature and limitations of philosophical inquiry.

Texts:


Disability: If you have a disability which may require special assistance, please contact Counseling Services/Disability Services, which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. You may also call Debby Jones or Rose Signorello at (713) 525-6983 or (713) 525-3162.

Deportment: Civil Deportment is required (e.g., no chewing gum, eating, caps, obnoxious comments, etc.). Do not turn on your computer or look at it during class. You can type up your notes after class.
EVALUATION:

Class Presentations: 15%
Student will make a class presentation. Each student needs to sign up for one topic. If you do not volunteer for a topic by January 22, a topic will be assigned to you.

Mid-Term Exams: 30% (15% each)

Final Exam: 20%

Preparation and Participation: 10%
Student must 1) be present for class, 2) prepare for each class by reading assignment, 3) have some notes and questions ready at hand, 4) provide questions and feedback to presenters, and 5) discuss issues in class. The 10% presupposes reliable attendance. Absences will lower the grade even further.

12-15 Page Paper: 25% Total (6%, 8%, 11%)
The paper will be on a particular topic covered in class. It will contrast disagreements between two scholars on one issue in Thomas Aquinas. The style will be University of Chicago, 14th ed. The first third (at least 4 pages), which covers one scholar, is due on February 24. The corrected first third and the second third (at least 8 pages combined) are due on March 17. The final paper, including corrected first and second parts as well as some sort of introduction, resolution, and conclusion, is due on April 23.
Thomas Aquinas, *Selected Writings* (ed. McInerny)

19. The Range of Natural Philosophy. (*Commentary on the Physics* I.1)
19. The Range of Natural Philosophy. (Preface to *Commentary on On the Heavens* and Preface to *Commentary on On Sense and the Sensed Object*)
17. Definitions of Soul.
Platonism and Neoplatonism.
3. On Being and Essence, 3-4.
3. On Being and Essence, 5-6
(Blackboard) Ethics and Practical Philosophy (*Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics*, I.1-2)

S.T. I (ed. Pegis)

q. 1, art. 1-2, 7-8. The Nature and Domain of Sacred Doctrine.
q. 2, art. 1-2. The existence of God.
q. 2, art. 3. The existence of God.
q. 3, art. 1-2. On the Simplicity of God.
q. 3, art. 3-4. On the Simplicity of God.
q. 12, art. 11-13. How God Is Known By Us.
q. 13, art. 1-3. The Names of God.
q. 13, art. 4-6. The Names of God
q. 44, art. 1-2. The Procession of Creatures from God and the First Cause of All Things.
q. 44, art. 3-4. The Procession of Creatures from God and the First Cause of All Things.
q. 45, art. 1-3. The Mode of Emanation of Things from the First Principle.
q. 45, art. 4-5. The Mode of Emanation of Things from the First Principle.