Course Description

Please see the School of Theology’s course catalogue for an official description.

In this section we will approach the topics of theological anthropology and eschatology with the help of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Benedictine theologian Anscar Vonier. We will also, naturally, be consulting the Divine Scriptures and various official doctrinal texts of the Church.

Required Texts

Besides a Bible, students will need three books:


ISBN 0615945724, Anscar Vonier’s Death and Judgment (Assumption Press, 2013), paperback $8 the cause of death to the last judgment


Additional texts, including some from St. Thomas and others from the Council of Trent and Vatican II, will be furnished by the professor as needed.

Course Requirements

Students are ordinarily to attend class and prepare the designated readings (i.e., study them carefully and take notes). There will be two exams for MAPS students, each covering about half the course material and worth half the course grade. The exams will include objective, with short-answer questions as well as some kind of pastoral essay (a homily, the text of a baptism prep class, or something along those lines). The exam scores may be curved at the professor’s discretion.

Students from other MA programs must take also submit a thoroughly researched term paper of about 5,000 words (exclusive of footnotes and bibliography), scrupulously prepared according to the current
Further instructions will be distributed if any of these students enroll in this section. For these students, their papers will be worth 1/2 the course grade, and the two exams will each be worth 1/4.

Students should bring their Aquinas volume (*Nature and Grace*) to class, as well as whatever they need for taking notes. The use of electronics is discouraged by not forbidden. Classes may not be recorded, except as an accommodation to medically documented disabilities.

### Course Calendar — subject to revision, depending on classroom progress and student interests

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| Tuesday, 8/23 | Introduction — syllabus review — imago dei, original sin, habitus, nature, telos  
|            | Natural and Supernatural — the categories — reading the Summa           |
| Tuesday, 8/30 | Intro, continued.  
|            | Read Council of Trent, Decree on Justification                         |
| Tuesday, 9/6  | ST Ia, qqs. 22-23 (Providence and Predestination)                      |
| Tuesday, 9/13 | ST Ia-IIae, qqs. 109-110 (Necessity and Essence of Grace)              |
| Tuesday, 9/20 | ST Ia-IIae, qqs. 111-112 (Divisions and Cause of Grace)                |
| Tuesday, 9/27 | ST Ia-IIae, q. 113 (Effects of Grace)                                  |
|            | 16th-17th Century controversies about grace                            |
| Tuesday, 10/4 | ST Ia-IIae, q. 113 (continued)                                        |
| Tuesday, 10/11 | Fall Break — no class                                                   |
| Tuesday, 10/18 | Exam One — covering all material to date (distributed 10/4, due 10/25)  
|            | No class meeting this week.                                            |
| Tuesday, 10/25 | ST Ia-IIae, q. 114 (Merit)                                             |
| Tuesday, 11/1  | 20th Century controversies about grace                                 |
|            | ST Ia, qqs. 82-83 (sin and death)                                      |
| Tuesday, 11/8  | Vonier, *Death and Judgment*                                           |
| Tuesday, 11/15 | Salvation outside the Church? *reading TBA*                            |
| Tuesday, 11/22 | Thanksgiving break — no class                                          |
| Tuesday, 11/29 | Vonier, *The Life of the World to Come*                                |
Final Exam date TBA – week of 12/5

Bibliography


Ligouri, (St.) Alphonsus. *Preparation for Death: Considerations on Eternal Truths.*


