University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary

CC 2219C Introduction to Philosophy
Permanent Deacon Candidates, Corpus Christi
Fall 2016
Fr. C.J.T. Talar
<talarc@stthom.edu>

Course Description: This course is intended to acquaint the student with major philosophers and philosophical problems that are of significance for theology. The intent is not to survey the history of philosophy, but rather to focus on material that will facilitate the study of theology.

It is also designed to instill or to refine skills necessary for the close reading of texts that will be necessary for theological studies, especially in systematic theology.

Course Outline:

Session #1: 20 August

Assigned: R.C. Sproul, The Consequences of Ideas: Introduction, ch. 1: The First Philosophers, and Ch. 2: Plato: Realist and Idealist (pp. 1 – 38)

Plato's Euthyphro/Answer Questions (Answer the questions as best you can. Philosophy texts are meant to challenge your thinking. We’ll spend time in class going over the questions and explaining any difficulties that remain after your reading and answering.)


2. Pre-Socratic philosophy:

   Emergence of philosophy: factors

   The Milesians: the representative pre-Socratic problem

3. Socrates/Plato

   The Socratic Problem

   Video: "Plato's Apology"

   Text and discussion (based on guideline questions provided): Plato's Euthyphro

Session #2: 10 September

Assigned: Sproul, ch. 3: Aristotle, ch. 4: Augustine (pp. 39 – 78)

   Plato’s Apology
Text and discussion: Plato's *Apology* (Use guideline questions)

4. Christian Platonism: Augustine
   
   Video: Augustine: "Christian Platonist"

5. Aristotle
   
   Video: "Aristotle's Metaphysics"

6. The Problem of Faith and Reason in Medieval Philosophy (Augustine, Latin Averroism, Aquinas)

Session #3: 24 September

Assigned: Sproul, ch. 5: Thomas Aquinas, ch. 6 René Descartes, ch. 7: John Locke, ch. 8: David Hume (pp. 65–116)
   
   St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* (xerox)
   
   Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 1 & 2 (xerox)

7. Thomas Aquinas
   
   Text and discussion: *Summa Theologiae* (excerpt)/Questions
   
   Video: "Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*: The Thomist Synthesis in its Political and Social Context"

8. Rationalism: René Descartes
   
   Text and discussion: Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 1 & 2 (H/O)

9. Empiricism: David Hume
   
   Video: "Hume's Epistemology"

Session #4: 8 October

Assigned: Sproul: Ch. 9: Immanuel Kant, ch. 10: Karl Marx, ch. 14: Darwin and Freud

10. Idealism: Immanuel Kant and G.W.F. Hegel

11. Karl Marx


Course texts:
R. C. Sproul, *The Consequences of Ideas* (Crossway, 2009)


Other texts noted in the syllabus will be supplied.

Note that Sproul is a very basic level philosophy text. For those who have the requisite background and interest and for whom Sproul will be too basic, you may wish to supplement your reading of Sproul with a text that gives more background on a given philosopher. A text long used in seminaries is the multi-volume history of philosophy by Frederick Copleston (Doubleday Image Book)