1 What is Authority and Virtue in the Catholic Tradition?

This course is an upper-level introduction to two things:

- the Catholic tradition of reflection on the common good and on the virtues proper to the guidance of common life &
- salient trends of modern philosophy which reject this tradition

Theological reflection depends on the harmonious cooperation of reason and faith, directed at the sources of revelation (i.e., Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium). The study of theology is the pinnacle of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and hence of a Catholic education. This course, in particular, integrates the perennial philosophy enshrined in the works of Aristotle with the writings of the Catholic monastic tradition.

2 What am I supposed to get out of this course?

At the course’s end, your study and practice of argumentation based on Catholic principles will furnish you with a foundation for good judgment. They will give you the demonstrable capacity to criticize, fairly and cogently, predominant misconceptions of management that stem from the errors of modern philosophy. Finally, they will offer you the rudiments of practices by which you will begin to cultivate virtuous leadership in keeping with your respective vocations.
3 Your professor

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4 What books do I need?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Is it required?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After Virtue</td>
<td>978268006112</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rule of St. Benedict in English</td>
<td>9780814612729</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Book of Pastoral Rule</td>
<td>9780881413182</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power</td>
<td>9780898703627</td>
<td>yes</td>
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5 Things to expect

The course consists of lecture and discussion, arranged into four units. You are expected to attend class with readings prepared and to participate in discussion when asked. Readings come from required texts, Blackboard, or library reserves. Some of the readings in Blackboard are provided to you digitally as weblinks to approved translations of classic texts (for the most part, Plato and Aristotle). You are also welcome to use editions of Plato or Aristotle that you may have purchased for previous courses at the University.

Your performance is evaluated principally through two assignments: (1) a question project due approximately in the middle of the term, and (2) a cumulative final essay examination. The question project consists of written answers to a number of questions distributed in advance. The length and topic of the answers will vary, depending on the question, but each question will take 1-2 pages to answer well.

The course grade is based on a criterion system, rather than a weighted calculation. On each assignment, the grade depends on my judgment, not on a specific numerical formula. The criteria by which I judge your assignments are available in Blackboard. For the course as a whole, your grade depends on meeting the minimum criteria for a particular grade level. (See table below.) If you do not meet all of these minimum criteria, you earn the next lowest grade. Fractions of letter grades are given at my discretion, for instance because of good class participation or substantive progress over the course of the term.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>question project</th>
<th>exam</th>
<th>course grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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The principle behind this grading system is very simple: to earn an A, your work in the course must be excellent (A-level) work, or progressing in that direction. If all or nearly all your work is at the B-level, then you earn a B. If all your work is at the C-level, then you earn a C. What about cases in which your work is a mix of achievement levels (such as a C on the project but an A on the final)? In such cases, generally speaking, your grade reflects your median level of achievement, subject to my professional judgment, within but not beholden to, the guidelines given in the table above.

Note that your midterm project, although it is not the same as a paper, should be formatted like one, and it will be submitted through turnitin.com, just like a paper. The final exam is conducted in-person during finals week, like usual. Moreover, the midterm project must not imitate the work of your fellow students, either verbally or conceptually. Each student should write his or her own answers to the questions. If you wish to discuss a revision with me, please submit the preliminary draft via turnitin. You can always submit revisions later, up to the due date. I will not discuss or offer feedback on projects that do not have a draft submitted via turnitin.

All assignments and any study guides or similar resources will be available in Blackboard. In addition, other aspects of course business will be conducted electronically:

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scheduling:  click here for the Bookedin online service;
paper submission:  click here for Turnitin ID 14480975; password: basilios_17s
grades:  the project grade will be available through turnitin;
required readings:  click here for Blackboard;
communication:  via UST email or Blackboard Collaborate only;
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5.1 A note on the expectation of participation and engagement

You are expected to prepare assigned readings in advance and to participate in class discussion. You should expect to work throughout the first part of the semester on your question project, and to revise it multiple times.
6 Schedule of topics and assignments (subject to change)

As a general rule, prepare ALL material in the Blackboard folder for each unit, even if it does not appear on this syllabus. Prepare assignments in the order in which they appear. Readings in Blackboard will be either pdfs or links to approved versions of the text, or both. Some readings will be available on reserve in the library. All other readings not marked as available in Blackboard or on reserve will come from the required textbooks.

First Readings in the Philosophical and Monastic Traditions Regarding the Common Good

1/23 Orientation

1/25 Plato’s Republic Bk. I, all and Bk. VII, all (on reserve and in Blackboard).

1/30 Republic Bk. VIII, all (on reserve and in Blackboard).

2/1 Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics Bk. I, chapter 2; Aristotle’s Politics Bk. I, all, and Bk. 7, chapters 1-3 (on reserve and in Blackboard).

2/6 Politics Bk. 3, chapters 1-4 (on reserve and in Blackboard); selections from St. Basil (in Blackboard); Rule of Benedict, pp. 15-19.

2/8 Politics Bk. III, chapters 5-13, and Bk. VII, chapters 13-14 (on reserve and in Blackboard).

2/13 selections from St. Thomas Aquinas part I (in Blackboard).

2/15 selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, part II (in Blackboard).


2/22 Philosophy of Democratic Government pp. 36-71 (on reserve).

2/27 Politics Bk. VII, chapters 1-3 (on reserve and in Blackboard); selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, part III (in Blackboard).

3/1 selections from St. John Cassian, part I (in Blackboard); selections from Josef Pieper’s Happiness and Contemplation, pp. 58-67 & 89-99 (on reserve).
### The Critique of Modern Conceptions of Authority and Virtue

3/6 Alasdair MacIntyre’s *After Virtue*, pp. 1-50.


3/13 *After Virtue*, pp. 109-120 (and catch up, if you’ve fallen behind).

3/20 selections from Max Weber (in Blackboard).

3/22 midterm project due by 11:59 PM; NO CLASS

### Monastic Sources on the Virtue of Good Judgment, and Other Virtues


4/3 selections from St. John Cassian, part II (in Blackboard).

4/5 selections from St. John Cassian, part III (in Blackboard).


4/12 *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, pp. 87-145.

4/19 *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, pp. 146-212.

4/24 extra day to discuss *The Book of Pastoral Rule*. Catch up with reading, as needed.

### Leadership, Language, and Information

4/26 *Sophist*, all (in Blackboard).

5/1 Josef Pieper’s *Abuse of Language, Abuse of Power*, pp. 7-39.


### 7 Rules

Rules are of two types: course-wide rules and assignment-specific rules.
**course-wide rules:** these apply to the course as a whole. All violations carry the same penalty: a full letter reduction in the course grade. This reduction can, however, be reversed if the problem is corrected and not repeated. The penalty does not accumulate (e.g., two violations are the same as one), but multiple, uncorrected violations will result in a failing grade for the course, at my discretion.

**attendance, etc.:** You are marked absent after five min. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences, or between absence and lateness. Late projects are not accepted, and will be recorded as failing, or will be graded on the basis of the most recently submitted draft. The penalty applies after six absences/latenesses.

**preparation for discussions:** You are expected to come to classes with readings prepared. Failure to be able to answer questions about the reading, or to bring the reading material for the oral discussion will result in being marked absent. (Readings from Blackboard may be accessed electronically in class, if you wish.)

**general rules on papers and projects:** Papers and projects must conform to assignment expectations in all particulars, including grammatical correctness, proper length, Chicago citation style (endnote-bibliography, with use of Latin abbreviations in endnotes when the style guide calls for it). Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Further specifications are available with the assignment prompt, and must be followed to the letter. Note in particular that papers and projects are accepted ONLY via Turnitin.

**accommodations:** Students who have a right to an academic accommodation must give me the official letter stipulating their specific arrangements. The student remains responsible for scheduling the final exam in the testing center and notifying me of the scheduled time at least three business days prior.

**technology:** I’m not opposed to the use of technology in principle, but experience shows that smartphones are a distraction for everyone in the room. There are two and only two acceptable places for a phone in my classroom: up front recording the lecture or put away, silenced, off or in airplane mode. Treat the classroom like a sacred space dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. If you don’t, you will be marked absent. Laptops and tablets for note taking in class are acceptable. You are expected to know how to use a computer and any software you need to complete course requirements.

**preparation:** You must have all the required textbooks, ideally as soon as the class begins, but no later than the third class session. Their ISBN numbers must match those on
the syllabus, and e-books are not permitted. It is the student’s responsibility, not the bookstore’s, to arrange to have the proper books. You must come to class with readings prepared. If I realize you are not prepared, you will be marked absent.

**meetings:** I encourage you to meet with me outside of the classroom, especially for project guidance. Appointments should be scheduled using Bookedin, my online scheduling service.

**communication:** You must use university email for electronic correspondence with me. Any lost or missed communication as a result of using third party email, or failing to maintain one’s UST email account under quota will be considered the student’s fault. Papers are never accepted via email.

**struggling students:** Ordinarily, the nature of the course and of its policies does not permit students to compensate for poor performance early on. A good grade demands good performance in the entirety of the course. Nevertheless, students who struggle early in the course should consult me for assistance. Subject to my review and at my sole discretion, I may allow for effort and truly substantive improvement to counterbalance initial poor performance, especially if it is clear that a student’s improvement is consistent.

**assignment-specific rules:** these are the instructions for specific assignments (the exams or papers). A violation of one of these rules results in a full letter reduction in the grade for the assignment. This applies even to rules for formatting and correct grammar. Such rules are not specified here, but separately on each assignment prompt.

### 7.1 A special exception to the rules:

Ordinarily, makeups and late submissions are not permitted. However, in the event that an electronic service used by the course, such as turnitin, is down, I will always extend the affected deadline by twenty-four hours past the original deadline, and you must resubmit within that timeframe. In the very unlikely event of a prolonged loss of service, I will extend the deadline as necessary in twenty four hour increments.

### 7.2 Typical excuses that are not accepted:

- Changing or unpredictable work hours: if you sign up for this course, you agree to schedule your business around the predetermined class schedule.
• Non emergent medical consultations and appointments
• Broken internet connection, broken or malfunctioning computer or other technology. You are responsible for having reliable technology, knowing how to use it, knowing how to troubleshoot it, and keeping backups.
• Unverifiable claims regarding Turnitin submissions. Keep your submission receipt in digital or paper form.
• Traffic. Yes, it’s bad. It’s always bad. Leave earlier.

8 Revisions and Updates

Any aspect of this syllabus is subject to revision, with timely notice.