THE END OF LIFE: SUFFERING AND HOPE
Graduate course, Dr. Mirela Oliva, Center for Thomistic Studies
Spring 2017
TTH 9:35-10:50 am; office hours: TTH 11-1 pm

The course makes a case for a Thomistic Existentialism that can be developed starting from Aquinas' Biblical commentaries. It discusses existential problems in Aquinas' thought in dialogue with the analytic and continental existentialism. Topics to be covered: existence, life, death, suffering, hope, faith, immortality, narrativity.

Th Jan 19 Introduction: For a Thomistic Existentialism

T Jan 24 Introduction: For a Thomistic Existentialism

Th Jan 26 Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, Preface, Attunement, Speech in Praise of Abraham 41-57

T Jan 31 Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, Preamble from the heart, Problema I, 57-96

Th Feb 2 Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, Problema II, Problema III, Epilogue, 96-149

T Feb 7 Heidegger, Being and Time, the question of Being; the analytic of Dasein, 21-35, 67-77

Th Feb 9 Heidegger, Being and Time, Being-towards-death, 279-312

T Feb 14 Heidegger, Being and Time, authenticity, the call of conscience, resoluteness, 312-349

Th Feb 16 Heidegger, The Phenomenology of Religious Life, the letters of Paul to the Galatians & Thessalonians 47-75

T Feb 21 Heidegger, The Phenomenology of Religious Life, the second letter of Paul to Thessalonians 75-115

Th Feb 23 Nozick, Philosophical Explanations, Ch. 6: Philosophy and the Meaning of Life, 571-610

T Feb 28 Nozick, Philosophical Explanations, Ch. 6: Philosophy and the Meaning of Life, 571-610

Th March 2 Presentations on existentialism

T March 7 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 1-4

Th March 9 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 5-10

T Th March 14-16 Spring Break

T March 21 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 11-15

Th March 23 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 16-22

T March 28 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 23-27

Th March 30 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 28-33

T April 4 Aquinas, The Literal Exposition on Job, ch. 34-39
Th April 6 Aquinas, *The Literal Exposition on Job*, ch. 40-42

T April 11 Aquinas, *Commentary on the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians* ch. 1-3

Th April 13 Easter Break

T April 18 Aquinas, *Commentary on the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians* ch. 4-5

Th April 20 Aquinas, *Commentary on the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians*, ch. 1-2

T April 25 Aquinas, *Commentary on the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians*, ch. 3

Th April 27 How to write a research paper

T May 2 Presentations on Aquinas

Th May 4 Overview

READINGS:

SECONDARY READINGS:

GRADE:
- 25% class participation (attendance, active participation at class discussion. Only two unexcused absences are accepted. For each further absence your class participation grade will be lowered with half letter.)
- 25% presentation on existentialism
- 25% presentation on Aquinas
- 25% paper, topic of your choice (15 pages, 12 pt, 1.5 lines, due May 16)

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:
No computers, no phones, no ipads. No food.

DISABILITY:
Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crocker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.