REQUIREMENTS:

Mid-term (40%): One 5 page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) on a topic we have discussed in class up to the point of the midterm. Select a single point from the text(s) and analyze and discuss.

Final Exam (40%): Cumulative, Essay-based

Participation/Preparedness (20%)

The University policies requiring intellectual honesty and the penalties for plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

Computers/tablets/electronic devices in class are highly discouraged (exceptions being made for classes where readings are electronically available), unless you need this accommodation. 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 Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Feser, Edward, Philosophy of Mind, OneWorld, ISBN 978 1 85168 478 6

Selections from Aquinas. Summa Theologiae, online at newadvent.org/summa

Other selections on BlackBoard provided by me.

SCHEDULE:

Thursday 18 January: Introduction

Tuesday 23 January: Why We Need Definitions
Read: Plato, Euthyphro

Thursday 25 January: Do Definitions Have Consequences?
  Euthyphro, continued.

Tuesday 30 January: The Search For Wisdom
  Read: Plato, Apology 17a-24b

Thursday 1 February: Arguments
  Read: Plato, Apology 24c-35d

Tuesday 6 February: Decisions
  Read: Plato, Apology 35e-42

Thursday 8 February: Definition of Soul
  Read: ST, I, q. 75, a.1, 2, 4, 5, 6 (http://newadvent.org/summa/1075.htm)

Tuesday 13 February: The Human Soul
  Read: ST, I, q. 75, a. 2, 3, 4, 7

Thursday 15 February: The Powers of the Soul
  Read: ST, I, q. 78, a. 1

Tuesday 20 February: The Intellect
  Read: ST, I., q. 79, a. 1, 3; Robert Epstein “The Empty Brain” (on Blackboard)

Thursday 22 February: Perception
  Read: Feser, vi-18

Tuesday 27 February: Dualism
  Read: Feser, 19-48

Thursday 1 March: Materialism
  Read: Feser, 49-84

Tuesday 6 March: Gender and the Human Body
  Read: John Finley “Metaphysics of Gender: A Thomistic Approach” (on Blackboard)

Thursday 8 March: Mid-Term Due; Gender continued

Monday 12 March-Friday 16 March No Class Spring Break
Tuesday 20 March: The Passions/Emotions
   Read: ST, I, q. 81, a.1-3

Thursday 22 March: Free Will
   Read: ST, I, q. 82, a.1-4

Tuesday 27 March: Is the will free?
   ST, I, q. 83, a.1

Thursday 29 March: Death
   Read: Plato, Crito

Tuesday 3 April: Transhumanism
   Read: Steven Jensen, “The Roots of Transhumanism” (on Blackboard)

Thursday 5 April: The Problem of Immortality
   Read: Plato, Phaedo 57a-69e

Tuesday 10 April:
   Read: Plato, Phaedo 70a-91b

Thursday 12 April
   Read: Plato, Phaedo 91c-107a

Tuesday 17 April
   Read: Plato, Phaedo 107b-118a

Thursday 19 April: Consciousness
   Read: Feser, 85-115

Tuesday 24 April
   Read: Feser, 116-143

Thursday 26 April: Thought
   Read: Feser, 144-170

Tuesday 1 May: Persons
   Read: Feser, 211-232

Thursday 3 May: Last Day of Class
Final Exam-

***This syllabus/assigned readings are subject to revision***