OUTLINE FOR PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE, EPISTEMOLOGY

Topic: To investigate critically the thesis that rationality is tradition or culturally dependent.

I. Introduction
   A. Meanings of “Epistemology” and “Christian Philosophy”
      Recommended reading: Owens, Cognition, Ch. I.
   B. “Philosophy” and the Demands of Revelation in Fides et Ratio, Ch. VII.
      Reading: Fides et Ratio, Ch. VII, online at www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_15101998_fides-et-ratio_en.html

II. Rowland’s, Culture and the Thomist Tradition after Vatican II: an extended critique of the view of philosophy in Fides et Ratio and a presentation of her change to rationality as tradition dependent.
   Reading: Culture and the Thomist Tradition, Parts I and III.
   Knasas, Thomism and Tolerance, 126-129.

III. Reply to Rowland – Human Rationality as Tradition-Initiating.
   A. Human Rationality and Aquinas’ Intellection of Being: Accommodating John Paul’s “Implicit Philosophy” in Fides et Ratio #4
      1. Sensation
         a. Knowing the Fact of Immediate Realism
         b. A Lingering “How” Question: Becoming the Real without Loss to Ourselves
      Reading, Owens, Cognition, Ch. 2.
      2. Intellection
         a. Knowing Commonalities, Univocal and Analogical
         b. A Lingering “How” Question: Knowing Commonalities that Are Existence Neutral
      3. Ratio Entis
         a. Its Analogical Richness
         b. Psychic Effects: Knowing for the Sake of Knowing, Volition, Freedom, Obligation
         c. Basic Description of the Ratio Entis
         d. Causality
         e. First Cause
      Reading: Class Notes on Blackboard.
      Knasas, Thomism and Tolerance, Ch. II.

   B. The Intellection of Being and Dawson’s Narrative of the History of Cultures.
      Reading: Dawson, Progress and Religion, Chapters III-X.
      Knasas, Thomism and Tolerance, 115-126.

IV. Conclusion
   Reading, Owens, Cognition, Epilogue

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I. Material to Purchase (available at UST Bookstore):
   Tracey Rowland, Culture and the Thomist Tradition after Vatican II
   Christopher Dawson, Progress & Religion.
   John F. X. Knasas, Thomism and Tolerance
II. Recommended texts on Blackboard:
   Joseph Owens, *Cognition, an Epistemological Inquiry*

III. Marks. The final mark will be computed as follows: mid-Term (30% approx. Mar. 7); 10 page paper (25%. Due date is Apr. 30); comprehensive final exam (35%); weekly quizzes (10%). MLA students will do a 15 page paper. Due date for paper is April 30.