AQUINAS ON EVIL PHIL 5362

Dr. Mirela Oliva, Centre for Thomistic Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston
Office hours: T TH 8:30-9:30 AM, 12:30-3 PM
Email: olivam@stthom.edu; Office phone: (713)942-5062

This course analyzes in detail Aquinas' conception of evil along three coordinates: metaphysics, ethics and philosophy of religion. The course also confronts Aquinas with major conceptions of evil in the history of philosophy, focusing especially on modern and contemporary positions. The course aims to show that the originality of Aquinas consists in his eschatological existentialism.

Th Jan 18 Introduction

T Jan 23 General presentation: Aquinas on Evil – An Eschatological Existentialism

METAPHYSICS: EVIL AND BEING

Th Jan 25 De Malo, Q. I On Evil

T Jan 30 Summa Contra Gentiles III, 1-15

Th Feb 1 Summa Theologiae, I, Q. 48 - 49

T Feb 6 Compendium Theologiae, ch. 114-122

Th Feb 8 Dialogues:
1. Heidegger (text on BB)
2. Antinatalism (Schopenhauer, Benatar) (texts on BB)

ETHICS: EVIL, SIN AND FREE-WILL

SIN

T Feb 13 De Malo, Q. II On Sins

Th Feb 15 Summa Theologiae I-II, Q. 71 – 74.

T Feb 20 De Malo, Q. III On the Causes of Sin

Th Feb 22 Summa Theologiae I-II, Q. 75 – 81.

ORIGINAL SIN

T Feb 27 De Malo, Q. IV On Original Sin - V On the punishment of Original Sin

Th March 1 Summa Theologiae I-II, Q. 82-87.
FREE-WILL

T March 6  *De Malo*, Q. VI On Human Choice
*Summa Theologiae*, I, Q. 83

Th March 8  *Summa Contra Gentiles*, III, ch. 67, ch. 73.
March 12-16 Spring break

T March 20 Dialogues:
1. Kant (on BB)
2. Arendt (on BB)

Th March 22 *Presentations*

T March 27  *Presentations*

March 29-April 1 Easter break

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: EVIL, CREATION, PROVIDENCE AND AFTERLIFE

T Apr 3  On God's goodness and perfection: ST I Q 4, Q. 6;  SCG I, 37-41

Th Apr 5  On the will of God, providence and predestination:
*ST I Q 19-23.*

T Apr 10  *Commentary on the Book of Job*, Ch. 1.

Th Apr 12  *Commentary on the Book of Job*, Ch. 16, 19.

T Apr 17  *Commentary on the Book of Job*, Ch. 38-41.

Th Apr 19  On salvation and the afterlife:

T Apr 24  2. The end of the world - ST Supplement, Q. 74.

Th Apr 26  3. Resurrection - ST Supplement, Q. 75-77.

T May 1 Dialogues:
1. Leibniz (on BB)
2. Ricoeur (on BB)

May 3  Review
REQUIRED SECONDARY READING:

RECOMMENDED SECONDARY READINGS:

GRADE:
- 30% 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.)  
- 30% presentation  
- 40% paper, topic of your choice (15 pages, 12 pt, 1.5 lines, due May 10)

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 Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.