PHIL 5314 A: Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature  
MW 10:30-11:45  

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Office Hours: MWF 2:00-3:00; TTH 3:30-5:00  

DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to Thomas Aquinas’s philosophical anthropology through a closer reading of the “Treatise on Human Nature” in the Summa Theologiae. The students will develop a familiarity with the text and the surrounding philosophical and historical issues. Consequently, although the course will primarily focus on the text itself, it will also consider the Aristotelian background of this work as well as its philosophical cogency and relevance for contemporary thought.

TEXTS:  


REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION: This course will be a seminar. Regular attendance and participation are required. To participate, you must read both the primary text and any assigned scholarly literature.

The student is encouraged to read the assignments from Thomas in Latin, if possible. The student must bring to class any assigned text, although the English translation is optional.

Each student will be required to read a short seminar paper (10-15 minutes) on one of the scholarly texts in the annotate bibliography. The student will present and evaluate the author’s main theses in the light of the day’s assigned text from St. Thomas. It will be important early in the course to read several of these scholarly texts in order to find a suitable entry and to know which day would be relevant. The student must give the professor a copy of the paper one week in advance of the presentation.

There will be a 15-20 page research paper due on April 30. An outline and bibliography are due on February 19. The paper must present a disagreement in the literature and suggest how the disagreement might be resolved. There should also be reference to more than seven scholarly sources. All primary citations must be from the best Latin edition. Plagiarism will result in an “F” for the entire course.
There will be a Mid-Term Exam and a cumulative Final Exam. Missed tests will ordinarily be graded as an “F.” Late papers will lose three points for each day that they are late.

NO LAPTOPS ARE ALLOWED UNLESS THERE IS A DOCUMENTED NEED. TEXTING AND CELLPHONES ARE PROHIBITED.

Assuming perfect attendance, the breakdown will be:

- Participation: 10%
- Seminar: 15%
- Mid-Term: 15%
- Final: 15%
- Paper Outline and Bibliography: 5%
- Paper: 40%