School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary

Catherine of Siena and Aquinas on Redemption & the Eucharist
YST/YSW/YMA 9381

CIC 252 § 3. There are to be classes in dogmatic theology, always grounded in the written word of God together with sacred tradition; through these, students are to learn to penetrate more intimately the mysteries of salvation, especially with St. Thomas as a teacher.

This class will explore the Dominican tradition of reflection on Christ’s gift of himself. Through lecture and seminar discussion, the students will become familiar with the thought of Catherine of Siena and Thomas Aquinas, focusing on key passages from Catherine’s Dialogues and Aquinas’s Summa Theologiae. Separated by a century, these saints portray the same truths with very different but complementary theological styles.

Professor: Sr. Albert Marie Surmanski, O. P.  
Office: Hughes 208 (UST main campus)  
Email: surmana@stthom.edu  
Phone: 713-525-6952  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00-2:00, Wednesday 9:00-12:00, TH 1:00-2:00 (I may occasionally be out during the T/TH activities period 12:30-1:30)  
Semester: Spring 2018  
Classroom: 7:00-9:45 pm, Wednesday

Required texts:
1) Catherine of Siena’s Dialogue, trans. Suzanne Noffke, O. P.  
ISBN: 0809102951 (hard cover) or 0809122332 (softcover)  
This specific translation is necessary. The Thorold translation is awkward and abbreviated.

2) Aquinas, Summa Theologiae. Any edition. We will read chiefly from the Tertia Pars.  
If you have the funds and can buy any edition, I recommend the edition by the Aquinas Institute: 1623400147.

Recommended Texts:


**Course Objectives:**
Students will read and achieve familiarity with the writings of Aquinas and Catherine on the topic of Redemption and the Eucharist. They will practice explaining and understanding the specific theological terminology employed by both authors. This includes Aquinas’s language of sacramental causality, especially as used by the Council of Trent. Students will appreciate the value of contemplative/speculative theology in intellectual conversion and the spiritual life.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Attendance and Discussion: 50%

2-4 page analysis of 2 sections from Catherine: 10% (Please choose one we have not read already in class and which you have not studied in another class)

2-4 page analysis of a *Summa* article from the *Teria Pars*: 15%. (Please choose one we have not read already in class and which you have not studied in another class)

4-5 page Compare and Contrast Catherine and Aquinas Paper: 25%

Please upload assignments to Turnitin: Class ID: 16800850 Enrollment key: 12251274

**All grades will be posted to turnitin.com**

**Grade Scale**

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1) Jan 17: Introductory Lecture and Exercises
2) Jan 24 Why the Incarnation?
   D: *optional* (1-12); 13-18
   ST: III. Q. 1. A 1-6

3) Jan 31 Why the death on the cross? *Analysis of Catherine due*
   D: 26-31
   ST: III. Q. 46, a. 1-4; III. Q. 7, a. 1-3, 11.

4) Feb 7 Christ’s sufferings  *Analysis of Aquinas due*
   D: 135-137
   ST: III. Q. 46, a. 5-11; III. Q. 18, a. 1, 3.

5) Feb 14 How are we saved?
   D: 138-142
   ST: III. 48, a. 1-6

6) Feb 21 What is grace?
   D: 143-148
   ST: I. a. 43, a. 3, 5; I-II q. 110, a. 1-4.

7) Feb. 28 Merit
   D: 1-12
   ST: I-II. Q. 114, a. 1-6

8) March 7 Principles of Sacramental Theology 1
   D: 19-25
   ST: III. Q. 60, a. 1, 4-7; III. Q. 61, a. 1-4

Spring Break March 14

9) March 21 Principles of Sacramental Theology 2
   D: 113-115
   ST: III. Q. 64, a. 1-3, 8-10; III. Q. 65, a. 1, 3.

March 28: Easter Break

10) April 4 Eucharist: why?
    D: handout on the blood in Catherine.
    ST: III. Q. 73, a. 3, 5; III, Q. 74, a. 1-3

11) April 11 Eucharistic change
    D: 110-112
12) April 18 Eucharistic presence
   ST: III. Q. 76, Q. 77 a. 1-4

13) April 25 Eucharistic grace *Compare/Contrast Paper Due*
    D: 32-62

14) May 2
    Finish any material not covered yet.

**Academic Honesty:**
Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be subject to University policy.

**Reasonable Accommodations Policy:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me within the first few weeks of class. While all discussions will remain confidential, in addition, students with disabilities will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center (713-525-6953 or 3162).

**N.B.**
The instructor reserves the right to change or modify this course and the syllabus subject to appropriate and timely notice to the students enrolled.