AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
PHIL 495: Seminar on Aquinas
Spring Term 2009
Craig A. Boyd, Ph.D.
Office: 625 Duke Academic Center
Office Hours: by appointment
Phone: ext 5771
Email: caboyd@apu.edu

APU Mission Statement:

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

Philosophy Department Mission Statement:

The philosophy program exists to help undergraduate students become complete people who reason and think reflectively about responses to the world, liberated from inadequate concepts and actions. In specific, the program equips its majors to become effective and faithful philosophers, well prepared for further philosophical education as well as for a range of professional careers, by exposing them to the history and methods of philosophy, inspiring them to see philosophy as a tool for the discipleship of the mind, motivating them to explore philosophy further, and training them in advanced philosophical topics and analytical, reflective and expressive skills.

Course Description:

PHIL 495 Senior Seminar
This course introduces the student to the philosophical thought of St. Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274). The course will cover Aquinas’s general approach to the discipline of philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, the nature of God, and ethics.
Required Textbooks:


Other articles as assigned including:


Course Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. identify key themes and theories in the work of Thomas Aquinas
2. read and interpret an article from the *Summa Theologiae.*
3. evaluate Aquinas’ philosophical arguments
4. write a philosophically sophisticated essay on some aspect of Aquinas’s philosophical thought

Evaluation:

Students will write an outline and two papers:

1. The outlines will be the student’s reproduction of an argument presented at
   a. Ia.14, 8
   b. Ia 75, 4
2. The first paper (i.e. the mid-term paper) will address Aquinas’ argument for divine timelessness. Students will be evaluated on their ability to (1) state a clearly formulated thesis (2) define their terms appropriately (3) summary of others’ arguments, (4) clarity of expression (5) appropriate grammar and style, and (6) their ability to construct their own arguments (Course Objectives 1,2,3).
3. The term paper will consider an issue addressed in class and will demonstrate not only mastery of the primary source material but also address issues raised in the secondary source materials. All papers must follow appropriate citation according to the *University of Chicago Manual of Style.* Students will be evaluated on their ability to (1) state a clearly formulated thesis (2) define their terms appropriately (3) summary of others’ arguments, (4) clarity of expression (5) appropriate grammar and style, and (6) their ability to construct their own arguments (Course Objectives 1,2,3).
4. Students will also be graded on their attendance and participation in class discussion.
Outline 1 5 points
Outline 2 10 points
Mid-term paper 25 points
Term paper 50 points
Participation & Attendance 10 points
Total 100 points

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72
D+ 67-69
D 61-66
F 60 and below

**Student Expectations:**

Students are expected to:
1. attend class faithfully
2. be prepared for class by doing assignments punctually and participating when requested to do so
3. respect other regardless by
   a. not reading extraneous materials in class
   b. not working on their laptops in class
   c. by turning off cell phones, pagers and beepers in class
   d. by staying awake and attentive in class
   e. by not interrupting
4. not plagiarizing or cheating in any way
5. turning in all assignments printed neatly, documented appropriately, and written coherently

**Faculty Expectations:**

The faculty member is expected to:
1. prepare for class faithfully and arrive punctually
2. respect students by listening attentively and thoughtfully
3. return past assignments before collecting new ones
Course Policies:

1. Attendance is critical for this course since philosophy is an activity engaged in by a community of thinkers.
2. Late papers or assignments are not accepted.
3. No extra credit will be offered.
4. Students with special learning needs must notify the instructor the first week of class to insure that the course can accommodate these needs.
5. In case of absence, the student must notify the instructor prior to the class period if the absence is to be considered “excused” (e.g., illness or family emergency).

SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; historical background. How to Read Aquinas. Ia. 1. ASSIGNMENT: read all of Ia.2-6; Mark Jordan’s “Theology and Philosophy” in CCA; and Jan Aertsen’s “Aquinas’s Philosophy in its Historical Setting” in CCA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>God. ASSIGNMENT: read Ia. 16-26 Outline #1 on Ia.14,8 Due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>God . ASSIGNMENT: read Chapters 1-4 in TOATM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nature of Being and Participation. ASSIGNMENT: read “On Being and Essence” John Wippel’s “Metaphysics” in CCA; Norris Clark’s Chapters 5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Human Nature &amp; Knowledge. ASSIGNMENT: read Ia. 75-79; Norman Kretzmann’s “Philosophy of Mind” in CCA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Human Nature. ASSIGNMENT: read Ia. 76-86; Scott MacDonald’s “Theory of Knowledge” in CCA; Outline #2 Due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Happiness. ASSIGNMENT read SCG III,1-26; IaIIae.6-21. Ralph McInerny’s “Ethics” in CCA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Happiness &amp; Habits. ASSIGNMENT: IaIIae. 49-54;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Virtues. ASSIGNMENT: IIaIae. Selections from Treatise on Prudence and the Treatise on Charity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Law. ASSIGNMENT: read IaIIae. 90-95; Paul E. Sigmund’s “Law and Politics.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Final Paper Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Craig A. Boyd received his Ph.D. in philosophy from St. Louis University in 1996 with a focus on medieval philosophy and the history of ethics. He is professor of philosophy and executive director of faith integration at Azusa Pacific University. He has published two books: A Shared Morality: A Narrative Defense of Natural Law Ethics (Brazos, 2007) and Visions of Agapé: Problems and Possibilities in Human and Divine Love (Ashgate, 2008). He has published articles in a variety of scholarly journals including Review of Metaphysics, New Blackfriars, The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science, Perspectives in Science and Christian Faith, Studies in Science and Theology, The Journal of Psychology and Christianity, Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching, and The Modern Schoolman. His research interests lie in the work of Thomas Aquinas, natural law morality, the ethics of love, divine command theory, and sociobiology. Boyd has also been a visiting scholar at Oxford University, St. Louis University, and the Istituto Veneto di Scienza Lettera ed Arti.

Bibliography: This bibliography is not intended to be comprehensive. But it should serve as a starting point for some of the more recent works on Aquinas as well as some important “classical” works (especially Gilson and Maritain). Use of the Philosopher’s Index is necessary to get a grasp of the full range of materials on Aquinas. A few journals are especially helpful as they tend to focus a great deal on Aquinas’ thought. See The Thomist, American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly (formerly The New Scholasticism), New Blackfriars, Faith and Philosophy, and The Modern Schoolman.

Primary Sources in Translation


Secondary Sources


________. *Ethica Thomistica: The Moral Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas*. (Catholic University of America Press, 1982).


________. *St. Thomas Aquinas*. (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1982).


PHIL 495: Seminar on Aquinas


