

**Course Information:**

Title: *PHIL 471—Special Topics in Medieval Philosophy*  
***Aquinas's Philosophical Theology, Metaphysics and Ethics***

Time: MW 2:30-3:50  
Location: CH 153  
Prerequisites: None (though previous study of philosophy will certainly be helpful and is *strongly* recommended)

(**Note:** This class will *not* fulfill the GE ethics requirement)

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Kevin Timpe  
ktimpe@sandiego.edu  
www.sandiego.edu/~ktimpe

Office: Founders 165A  
Office Hours: MW 4:00-5:00, F 1:30-4:30, and by appointment  
Office Phone: 260.7768

**Course Description:**

The course focuses on one of the most influential medieval philosophers, St. Thomas Aquinas. The course will provide a systematic overview of his thought, beginning with his philosophical theology, then discussing central issues in metaphysics (such as human nature, causation, etc...) and concluding with ethics. The course thus follows the same general trajectory that Aquinas himself follows in his *Summa Theologiae*. We will also discuss the reasons for this trajectory.

**Texts:**Primary:

- *Treatise on the Divine Nature: Summa Theologiae I 1-23*, translated by Brian Shanley (Hackett, 2006)—**TDN**
- *Treatise on Human Nature: Summa Theologiae I 75-89*, translated by Robert Pasnau (Hackett, 2002)—**THN**

Secondary:

- Brian Davies. *The Thought of Thomas Aquinas* (Oxford University Press, 1993)—**Davies**
- Robert Pasnau and Christopher Shields. *The Philosophy of Aquinas* (Westview Press, 2003)—**PS**

Additional readings will also be distributed via E-reserve (*ER*) in the library. The *ER* password for this course is '**Medieval**'.

This course will also make use of WebCT. Students are responsible for regularly checking WebCT to keep current with the course schedule.

**Assignments:**

Part of your course grade is based on class participation. Students are to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Note that this course will require a significant amount of reading. Students who are not willing to read or discuss what is assigned should **not** take the class. Everyone benefits from robust classroom discussion.

There will be two exams for the course. There are *no* makeup exams, including rescheduled final exams. Study guides will be circulated prior to the exams.

Students will write one short paper (approximately 4-5 pages) on a designated topic. Students will also write an argumentative paper of approximately 10 to 12 pages. The topic for the argumentative paper can be any issue related to the course material, but *must be approved beforehand* by the instructor.

All assignments will be docked 1 full letter grade for *each* 24 hour period late (or part thereof), excluding official University holidays.

**Course Grade:**

Class Participation	10%
Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Short Paper	15%
Argumentative Outline & Bibliography	5%
<u>Argumentative Paper</u>	<u>30%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

A	> 93%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	< 60%

**Academic honesty:**

This is, after all, a course concerned with truth and ethics. Academic dishonesty in any form will **not** be tolerated. The University of San Diego's policy on academic honest reads, in part, as follows:

Academic dishonesty, and allegations of academic dishonesty, are matters of University-wide concern in the same way that academic integrity is a matter of University-wide concern. Students bear the responsibility not only for their own academic integrity but also for bringing instances of suspected academic dishonesty to the attention of the proper authorities.... Penalties imposed by the instructor or supervisor with respect to a course or academic exercise may include: reduction in grade of the affected person in the course or exercise; the requirement that the affected person withdraw from the course or exercise; the requirement that all or part of the course or exercise be retaken; the requirement that the person engage in additional work in connection with the course or exercise.

Cheating on an assignment, including but not limited to inappropriate collaboration on homework and tests or plagiarizing a paper, is grounds for failure of the course. I **will not** hesitate to fail you if you cheat.

**Miscellaneous Information:**

All students will utilize their USD email accounts. I will sometimes use email to communicate with the class as a whole. Thus, I expect you to check your email on a reasonable and regular basis. If you normally use a different email address, you will need to set your USD account to automatically forward all received mail to your preferred account.

Students are expected to treat all others in the class with the respect that is due.

Students will turn off all cell-phones during this course. The instructor gets to answer any phone that rings.

You should become familiar with my web-page, as it has links to E-Reserve and WebCT. Also note that email is probably the best way to communicate with me outside of class.

**Rough Course Schedule (Subject to Change):**

The current class schedule of readings and assignments can be found on the course WebCT site. Make sure you check this *regularly!*

<u>Week:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
1	Background and Introduction to Aquinas' Thought <b>Davies</b> , Preface <b>PS</b> , "Life and Work" (suggested) <b>Davies</b> , "The Life of a Saint"
2	The Possibility of Talk about God <b>Davies</b> , "Talking about God" <b>TDN</b> , Question 13, articles 1-6, 8, 10-12 <b>TDN</b> , Question 12, articles 1, 4-7
3	Aquinas on Knowing God's Existence <b>Davies</b> , "Getting to God" <b>PS</b> , "God's Existence and Nature" <b>TDN</b> , Question 2, articles 1-3
4	The Divine Nature—Simplicity, Eternity and Immutability <b>Davies</b> , "What God is Not" <b>Davies</b> , "Ubiquity to Eternity" <b>TDN</b> , Question 3, articles 2-4, 6-7 <b>TDN</b> , Question 9, article 1 <b>TDN</b> , Question 10, articles 1-4
5	The Divine Nature—Perfection and Goodness <b>Davies</b> , "Perfection and Goodness" <b>PS</b> , "The Order of the Universe" <b>TDN</b> , Question 4, articles 1-2 <b>TDN</b> , Question 5, articles 1-3, 4 <b>TDN</b> , Question 6, articles 1-4
6	Metaphysics: Causes and Substances <b>PS</b> , "Aquinas's Explanatory Framework: The Four Causes" <b>PS</b> , "Aquinas's Metaphysical Framework: Being & Essence" Supplemental Reading from Aristotle
7	Human Nature: Soul and Body <b>Davies</b> , "Being Human" <b>PS</b> , "The Human Soul and the Human Body" <b>THN</b> , Question 75, articles 1-6

8	<p><b>THN</b>, Question 76, articles 1, 3-4, 8</p> <p>Human Nature: Intellect and Will</p> <p><b>PS</b>, "Sense and Intellect"</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 77, articles 1-4</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 78, articles 1-2</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 79, articles 1-2, 7-8</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 80, articles 1-2</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 82, articles 1-4</p>
9	<p>God and Humans: The Nature of Providence</p> <p><b>Davies</b>, "Providence and Freedom"</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Question 83, articles 1-4</p> <p><b>THN</b>, Appendix 2</p>
10	<p>Human Nature: The End of Human Life and Happiness</p> <p><b>Davies</b>, "How to Be Happy"</p> <p><b>PS</b>, "The Goal of Human Life"</p> <p>Supplemental Reading from Aquinas</p>
11	<p>Aquinas on Virtue: General</p> <p><b>Davies</b>, "How to Be Holy"</p> <p><b>PS</b>, "Ethics"</p> <p>Supplemental Readings from Aquinas</p>
12	<p>Aquinas on Virtue: The Four Cardinal Virtues</p> <p>Supplemental Readings</p>
13	<p>Natural Law</p> <p>Supplemental Readings</p>
14	<p>Review/Make-up</p>