

Term: Spring 2021

Course Title: Justice in the Franciscan Tradition

Course No.: PHIL 3998.01/CATH 3998.02

Section Time: MW 2:00 – 3:30

Instructor: Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ

Core Area: Ethics and Justice

Flag: Integrations

Course Description: This core integrations online course in Ethics and Justice explores the centrality of justice in the Franciscan Tradition. After becoming familiar with the life and spiritual legacy of Francis of Assisi, and against the background of classic theories of justice (Plato and Aristotle), we look at key Franciscan thinkers (philosophers and theologians) as they consider what it means to ‘act justly’ in the world. Students apply Franciscan insights and methodology to analyze one contemporary issue of their choice (taken from areas of environmental justice, economic justice, social justice) in a semester-long, sequenced writing project.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Understand the evolution of the concept of justice from Plato and Aristotle to John Duns Scotus;
2. Explain central ethical elements required for just action: free choice, character, rational deliberation and judgment;
3. Write carefully reasoned, grammatically correct, clearly expressed reflection papers over the course of the semester;
4. Apply Franciscan insights and methodology to analyze one contemporary issue of their choice (taken from areas of environmental justice, economic justice, social justice) in a semester-long, sequenced writing project.
5. Value rigorous, respectful and informed scholarly debate/dialogue;
6. Appreciate the intimate connection between faith, reason and justice.

Required Texts (subject to change):

Lawrence S. Cunningham, *Francis of Assisi: Performing the Gospel Life* (Eerdmans 2004) ISBN 0-8028-2762-4

Bonaventure, *The Journey of the Mind to God* (Hackett 1993) ISBN 0-87220-200-3

Murray Bodo, OFM, *Surrounded by Love: Seven Teachings of St. Francis* (Franciscan Media 2018) ISBN 978-1-63253-237-4

Delio, Warner, Wood, *Care for Creation: A Franciscan spirituality of the Earth* (St. Anthony Messenger 2008) ISBN 978-0-86716-838-9

Course Work/Expectations:

Weekly participation in discussion boards; regular writing assignments on the readings; midterm exam; final writing project (submitted three times throughout the semester).

Term: Spring 2021

Course Title: 20th Century Catholic Philosophy

Course Number: PHIL 3998

Section Times/Days: 02 - TR 11:50 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Scott Roniger

Core Attribute: Integrations: Faith and Reason

Course Description/Principle Topics:

This course will be a philosophical analysis of major movements and figures in 20th Century Catholic philosophy, especially as these figures have engaged with the achievements of the modern sciences and have developed resources for theological reflection. The chief contributions to Catholic philosophy in the previous century can be roughly divided into three categories: neo-scholastic Thomism, phenomenology, and analytic philosophy. We will utilize these three approaches to discuss three of the transcendentals: being, truth, and good.

In order to discuss being, we will read some of the leading figures in the neo-scholastic, and more specifically Thomistic, movement of Catholic philosophy. In this section, we will study, among other issues, (a) the connection between form and being, (b) final causality and modern evolutionary theory, (c) the relation between modern science, classical philosophy, and Catholic theology, and (d) philosophical arguments for the existence of God.

In order to discuss truth, we will study the work of Robert Sokolowski, a leading figure in contemporary phenomenology. We will pay special attention (a) to the nature of language and the way words shed light on being, (b) to the various kinds of truth (truth of disclosure, truth of correctness, scientific truth, and practical truth), (c) to the human person understood as an agent of truth, and (d) to the way in which scientific, philosophical, and theological truths are interlaced.

In order to discuss the good, we will read various figures from the Catholic analytic tradition. In this section, the following topics will be paramount: (a) virtue, (b) natural law, and (c) the human person as a social and political animal.

Finally, we will show how Thomistic philosophy and phenomenology can be employed to enrich Catholic theology. Thomistic metaphysics provides a foundation for systematic theology, while phenomenology can be used to develop the theology of disclosure, or the theology of manifestation. The course will show that these two forms of theological reflection, as well as the philosophies that undergird them, complement and strengthen each other. Issues to be discussed include (a) the relationship between creation and evolution, (b) the nature of the God of faith and reason, and (c) prayer.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will read, write, and speak about different ways to understand the interface between modern science, philosophy, and Catholic theology. Our dialogue between science, philosophy, and theology will enrich students' pursuit of answers to the most fundamental human questions, questions concerning human nature, the place of science in human life, the nature of reality, and the existence of God. We will show how God can be discussed on the basis of human reason and on the basis of divine revelation, and how these two approaches can be

integrated. We will also show how the three philosophical approaches enable human beings to better understand their moral obligations in light of our knowledge of ourselves and of God. The texts we will read and the papers the students will write will give each student the tools and the opportunity to grapple with these questions in an intellectually mature way.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background:

None

Required Texts:

- Sokolowski, Robert. *The God of Faith and Reason: Foundations of Christian Theology*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1995.
 - o *Introduction to Phenomenology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
 - o *Phenomenology of the Human Person*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. (Selections)
- St. Augustine. *Confessions*. Image Classics Series. Translated and with an Introduction and Notes by John K. Ryan. New York: Image Books, 1960. (Selections)
- MacIntyre, Alasdair. *Dependent Rational Animals: Why Human Beings Need the Virtues*. Chicago: Open Court Press, 1999.
- Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio: On the Relationship between Faith and Reason*. Pauline Books and Media, 1998.
- St. Thomas Aquinas. *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*. Edited by Anton C. Pegis. Modern Library College Edition, 1965. (Selections)
- Gilson, Étienne. *From Aristotle to Darwin and Back Again: A Journey in Final Causality, Species and Evolution*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009.

Course Work/Expectations:

- Diligent reading, course attendance, and contribution to class discussions.
- Three short papers (3-4 pages), one on each of the three major approaches to Catholic philosophy studied in the course.
- One longer essay (6-7 pages) discussing some aspect of the relationship between faith and reason.
- A written final exam.

Term: Spring 2021

Course Title: Faith and Reason

Course Number: PHIL 3998

Section Times/Days: 03 - TR 3:50 – 5:20 p.m.

Core Attribute: Integrations: Faith and Reason

Instructor: Dr. Scott Roniger

Course Description/Principle Topics:

In this course, we will discuss the nature and integration of Christian faith and human reason. In order to shed light on this topic, we will focus on the existence, nature, and revelation of the God of both faith and reason. We will study themes such as (a) the kinds of discourse involved with Christian faith and the place of philosophy in theological discourse, (b) the connection between natural ethics and the theological virtues, and (c) the proper integration of scientific, philosophical, and theological knowledge. We will read the work of St. Augustine, St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Robert Sokolowski. We will discuss philosophy as a contemplative exploration of natural necessities and show how theology functions as rigorous thinking about faith and revelation, as faith seeking to understand.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will require us to think about how we know ourselves, the world, and God and how we act in light of that knowledge. We think and act better in the company of friends, as Aristotle says (and St. Thomas comments upon this saying), so we will grapple with these questions together as a learning community. Together we will read, discuss and write about fundamental questions and ideas in the well-founded hope that the search for truth will make us better, more complete human beings. The texts we will read and the papers the students will write will give each student the tools and the opportunity to grapple with these questions in an intellectually mature way.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background:

None

Required Texts:

- St. Augustine. *Confessions*. Image Classics Series. Translated and with an Introduction and Notes by John K. Ryan. New York: Image Books, 1960. (Selections)
- Anselm. *The Major Works*. Oxford University Press, 2008. (Selections)
- St. Thomas Aquinas. *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*. Edited by Anton C. Pegis. Modern Library College Edition, 1965. (Selections)
- Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio: On the Relationship between Faith and Reason*. Pauline Books and Media, 1998.
- Sokolowski, Robert. *The God of Faith and Reason: Foundations of Christian Theology*. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1995.

Course Work/Expectations:

- Diligent reading, course attendance, and contribution to class discussions.
- Three short papers (3-4 pages)
- One longer essay (6-7 pages) discussing some aspect of the relationship between faith and reason.
- A written final exam.

PHIL 3998 – Comparative Philosophies of the Self

Loyola Marymount University

Spring 2021

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:50-5:20pm

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Mason, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Office Hours: 11:30-1:00 T/TH; W 10-12 or by appointment

Office: UNH 3618

Email: joshua.mason@lmu.edu

Phone: (310) 338-2858

Course Description:

Students in this course will draw upon diverse traditions to think through the concept of selfhood. Thinking through the two disciplines of Anthropology and Philosophy, we will pursue understanding of “the self” as conceived by different cultures, and engage in self-understanding as we reflect on our own ideals of a good life. We proceed with comparison among cultural traditions, including Western Liberalism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Latinx philosophy. Ultimately, this course asks students to explore their own culture and self-conception, and the ethical ideals that are available to such a self in the world today.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background:

Recommended: Phil 3100

Required Texts/References:

Course Work/Expectations:

Regular Attendance 5%

Discussion Questions and Class Exercises 20%

Cultural Artifact Analysis 15%

Short Papers on Self and Goods 25%

Final Paper on Self and Culture 35%