

Thomas Aquinas

PHIL 315W
Spring 2020
MWF 11:00–11:50

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This course will introduce you to the philosophical thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas through his own writings, especially those on God, on nature, on knowledge, on language, on the problem of evil, and on the relation between faith and reason.

Besides learning where St. Thomas stood on these matters, you will be equipped to interpret his writings and thereby to explore the full range of his thought. To that end, we will consider his life and times, the literary forms he employed, and the rich blend of Platonic and Aristotelian notions he adopted and developed.

TEXTS

Our readings will come chiefly from the first part of Thomas' *Summa theologiae*, with selections from other works where they clarify arguments in the *Summa* or illustrate the breadth of their applicability. All readings are available electronically, at no cost, on Blackboard and on my [web site](#).

REQUIREMENTS

Two essay exams, a short exegetical paper, and participation.

☛ This course fulfills the Faith & Reason Theme Area requirement. ☛