

## ST JOHN'S SEMINARY - COURSE SYLLABI

Semester: Spring 2020

Course ID: Ph 427

Course Time: TF 10-11

Instructor: Dr. Alan Vincelette

Course Title: Metaphysics

Course Location: Theology Library Mission Room

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Units 2

Phone: Ext. 2045

### Course Description:

Study of the ultimate nature of spiritual reality, including materialism vs. idealism, essence and existence, potentiality and actuality, identity, the transcendentals, and the laws of thought.

### Required Texts:

Feser, Edward. *Scholastic Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction* (Neunkirchen-Seelscheid: Editions Scholasticae, 2014).

Ney, Alyssa. *Metaphysics: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2014).

Kenny, Anthony, *A New History of Western Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

### CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (January 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>): Being in Aristotle and Boethius

Week 2 (January 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>): Being in Aquinas

Week 3 (January 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>): Being in Aquinas

Week 4 (February 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>): Being in Kant/Heidegger/Kenny

Week 5 (February 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>): Being in Aquinas (Owens, Wippel)

Week 6 (February 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>): Being in Aquinas (Clarke, Ulrich)

Week 7 (February 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>): Time

Week 8 (March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>): Time in Relativity Theory

Week 9 (March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>): Causation

Week 10 (March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>): Causation in Quantum Mechanics

Week 11 (March 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>): Persistence

Week 12 (March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>): Free Will

Week 13 (April 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>): Holy Week

Week 14 (April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>): Spring Break

Week 15 (April 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>): Free Will

Week 16 (April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>): Free Will

Week 17 (May 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>): Natural Theology

Finals Week: **PAPER DUE**

### Evaluation for Metaphysics:

Class Participation (50%)

Paper (50%)

### Course Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand key terminology involving time, possibility, causality, and free will
2. Understand the methodology of metaphysics

3. Understand the key arguments for the various metaphysical positions on issues of time, identity, and free will