

Philosophical Anthropology

Fall 2019

Tuesdays 8-9:50am, Theology Library Mission Room

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Course Description

This course provides a systematic overview of major topics in philosophical anthropology, including the human soul and its relation to the body, the nature of the intellect and the will, and the role of the passions. In the first half of the course, the writings of Aquinas and the Thomistic tradition of interpretation will be our primary guide through these topics.

In the second half of the course, we will discuss selected modern and contemporary approaches to the human person. Approaches that we will discuss include: Cartesian dualism; the conceptions of freedom and social contract theories that undergird modern political liberalism; Karol Wojtyła's Christian personalism; and some contemporary discussions of the relationship between intellect and will in human action.

Finally, we will close by considering a text by Alasdair MacIntyre in which he defends a neo-Aristotelian anthropology that highlights both the distinctiveness of human rationality and our natural dependence on one another. Because MacIntyre is especially attentive to the ways in which particular societies help to promote distinctive human excellences, our study of this text will also directly fulfill WASC guidelines indicating that courses should aim to "incorporate issues of cultural context and intercultural competence in classroom pedagogy."

The *Program for Priestly Formation*, 5th edition states that pre-theology programs should include "substantial studies in the history of philosophy" as well as the study of key systematic areas, including "logic, epistemology, philosophy of nature, metaphysics, natural theology, anthropology and ethics" (§§155-156). Accordingly, this course aims to complement the historical studies of the PT1 year with a systematic study of the human person. It will also draw especially on the principles of natural philosophy and metaphysics acquired in other classes, and aims to provide a foundation for the future study of ethics as well as the theological study of anthropology in the theologate.

Throughout the class, students will be expected not only to read carefully and master the ideas and arguments considered in our texts but also to develop their own rich and critical understanding of the issues at stake. Ultimately, students should be able to articulate and defend for themselves their own positions on various topics in philosophical anthropology.

Course Goals:

1. Students will understand key concepts in philosophical anthropology (e.g., intellect, will, passions).
2. Students will identify and understand commonly held positions regarding the human person (concerning, e.g., the relationship between body and soul, the nature of the intellect, or the meaning of free will), as well as some arguments that are adduced for these positions.
3. Students will see that Catholic doctrine is consistent with a certain range of positions in philosophical anthropology and inconsistent with others, and will become equipped to tell the difference.

Required Texts:

Aquinas, *On Human Nature* (ed. Thomas Hibbs; Hackett), ISBN: 9780872204546

Jensen, Steven J., *The Human Person: A Beginner's Thomistic Psychology* (CUA Press), ISBN: 9780813231525

MacIntyre, Alasdair, *Dependent Rational Animals: Why Human Beings Need the Virtues* (Open Court), ISBN: 9780812694529

Additional texts will be made available as photocopied handouts and via the web.

Optional Texts

Students who are interested in *optional, supplemental* readings in philosophical anthropology, during or after our course, are advised to consult the following.

DeYoung, McCluskey, and Van Dyke, *Aquinas' Ethics* (Notre Dame), ISBN: 9780268026011

Lombo and Russo, *Philosophical Anthropology: An Introduction* (Midwest Theological Forum), ISBN: 9781936045761

Neenan, O.P., *The Nature of the Human Soul: Philosophical Anthropology and Moral Theology* (Cluny Media, LLC), ISBN: 9781944418335

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Participation (20%): Attendance at and participation in each class is mandatory. Please remember to bring appropriate texts for the day. I expect you to offer substantive contributions to class discussion in the form of questions or statements during most class sessions. Your contributions should give clear evidence of careful reading and should help to promote or sustain others' engagement with the text.

Quizzes (15%): There will be **three** in-class quizzes. Each quiz will comprise a few objective and short answer questions and will last approximately 10-15 minutes.

Homework Assignments (10%): Students will be asked to complete **two** written homework assignments, in preparation for class on select days. Homework assignments will comprise a short set of questions to be answered on the basis of the reading for the day. Each homework assignment should be **submitted via e-mail no later than 8am on Tuesday morning**.

Paper (25%): Each student will be asked to write one substantial research paper (approx. 2000 words). The overall grade on the paper will include assessment of various components (i.e., annotated bibliography, plan, rough draft, final draft) to be turned in during the second half of the semester. Further details TBA.

Oral Presentation (10%): Students will be asked to contribute a presentation to our class during our discussions of Alasdair MacIntyre's *Dependent Rational Animals*. Further details TBA.

Final Exam (20%)

Schedule of Readings

N.B. This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be notified of any changes in a timely manner, in class or via e-mail.

<p>Tues. Aug. 27 On philosophical anthropology; the external senses</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i> (Jensen), Chapters 1-2 From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i> (ed. Hibbs): 2. <i>Summa Theologica</i> I, Q. 78, aa. 1 and 3 (pp. 107-110, 112-115)</p>
<p>Tues. Sept. 3 The internal senses and the emotions</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i> (Jensen), Chapters 4-5 From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i> (ed. Hibbs): 2. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 77, a. 3 (pp. 103-105) 3. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 78, a. 4 (pp. 115-119) 4. <i>ST I-II</i>, Q. 22, aa. 1-3 (pp. 241-6) 5. <i>ST I-II</i>, Q. 23, a.1 (pp. 247-8) Homework #1 due today</p>
<p>Tues. Sept. 10 The emotions, cont'd: psychology, personality, and the causes of mental phenomena</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapter 6 2. Paul Gondreau, "Balanced Emotions", pp. 139-155, 163-6, 171-173 3. Selection on Personality Types - TBD From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i>: 4. <i>ST I-II</i>, Q. 24, aa. 1-3 (pp. 254-8)</p>
<p>Tues. Sept. 17 The person, unity of body and soul</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapters 7-8 2. <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> §§ 355-368 From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i>: 3. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 75, aa. 1 and 4 (pp. 60-62, 66-68) 4. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 76, aa. 1 and 5 (pp. 75-80, 91-94) Quiz #1 in class today</p>
<p>Tues. Sept. 24 The intellect: its complex and amazing activity</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapters 9-10 From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i>: 2. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 79, aa. 2-4 (pp.121-9) 3. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 84, aa. 1-3 and 6 (pp. 134-42, 148-51) 4. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 85, a. 1 and 5-6 (pp. 155-159, 167-9) Homework #2 due today</p>

<p>Tues. Oct. 1 Immateriality of thought and immortality of the soul</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapter 11 2. Herbert McCabe, "The Immortality of the Soul" From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i>: 3. <i>Commentary on De Anima</i>, § 743-745 (pp. 58-9) 4. <i>ST I</i>, Q. 75, aa. 2-3 and 6 (pp. 63-66, 70-1)</p>
<p>Tues. Oct. 15 The will: its act, its freedom</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapters 12-13 2. Tobias Hoffman, "Free Choices" From <i>Aquinas on Human Nature</i>: 3. <i>ST I</i> Q. 82, aa. 1-4 (pp. 192-9) 4. <i>ST I</i> Q. 83, aa. 1 and 3 (pp. 202-204, 206-207) 5. <i>ST I-II</i>, Q. 8, a. 1 (pp. 209-210)</p>
<p>Tues. Oct. 22 Free will, cont'd: from ancient to contemporary approaches</p>	<p>Read: 1. <i>The Human Person</i>, Chapter 14 2. Robert Spaemann, <i>Persons: The Difference between 'Someone' and 'Something'</i>, Chapter 16: "Freedom" Quiz #2 in class today</p>
<p>Tues. Oct. 29 Mind and person in the moderns</p>	<p>Read: 1. Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 2, beginning-m29; <i>Meditation</i> 5, m63 ("But before I") – m65 ("...abstract mathematics."); and <i>Meditation</i> 6 m74 ("But besides") - m83 ("...information.") (Baird & Kauffman pp. 22-27, 40-41, 44-49) 2. John Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>, Bk. II, Ch. 1, §§1-5, 23-25; Ch. 11, §§9-11; Ch. 12, §1; Ch. XXIII §§1-3, Ch. XXVII (all); Bk. III, Ch. III, §§ 1-9, 11, 20 Annotated Bibliography due today</p>
<p>Tues. Nov. 5 Individualism and the anthropology of modern political liberalism</p>	<p>Read: 1. Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, Ch. 13-14 (Baird & Kauffman pp. 75-79) 2. John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i>, Ch. 2, §§4-8, 13-14; Ch. 3, §§16-17, 19, 21; Ch. 6, §54; Ch. 8, §§95, 98-99; Ch. 9, §§123-131 3. Pierre Manent, <i>The City of Man</i>, pp. 113-117, 120-132</p>
<p>Tues. Nov. 12 Kant: an Enlightenment anthropology</p>	<p>Read: 1. Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" 2. From Roger Scruton, "Modern Philosophical Anthropology", pp. 264-270 3. From Charles Taylor, "Kant's Theory of Freedom", pp. 318-327, 331-333 Final Paper Plan due today</p>
<p>Tues. Nov. 19 Man as person</p>	<p>Read: 1. Karol Wojtyla, "Subjectivity and the Irreducible in the Human Being" 2. Robert Spaemann, <i>Persons</i>, Chapter 2: "Why We Call Persons 'Persons'" Quiz #3 in class today</p>

<p>Tues. Nov. 26: A contemporary reflection: humans as dependent rational <i>animals</i></p>	<p>Read: Alasdair MacIntyre, <i>Dependent Rational Animals</i>, Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Final Paper Rough Draft due today</p>
<p>Tues. Dec. 3 What it means to be a practical reasoner: humans as dependent rational <i>animals</i></p>	<p>Read: MacIntyre, <i>Dependent Rational Animals</i>, last four paragraphs of Chapter 5 (pp. 49-51) and Chapters 6-7 (all)</p> <p>Oral presentations today</p>
<p>Tues. Dec. 10: From anthropology to ethics: humans as <i>dependent</i> rational animals</p>	<p>Read: MacIntyre, <i>Dependent Rational Animals</i>, Chapters 8-10</p> <p>Oral presentations today Final Paper due today</p>

Final Exam TBA