

A Protestant Introduction to the thought of Thomas Aquinas

Davenant Hall, Fall 2019
Dr. David Haines
philosopherdhaines@gmail.com

Course Start Date: 9/30/2019

Course End Date: 12/13/2019

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the thought of Thomas Aquinas, such that the student will be able to read and study the works of Aquinas for themselves and interact with the different schools of Thomistic thought. This will be done in such a way as to bring the thought of Aquinas into interaction with some prominent strands of Reformed theology and Contemporary philosophy.

Course textbook:

- (1) *Introduction to the thought of Thomas Aquinas: A Primary Source textbook*, ed. David Haines

Suggested reading:

- (1) Josef Pieper, *Guide to Thomas Aquinas*, trans. Richard & Clara Winston (Pantheon books, 1964).
- (2) Edward Feser, *Aquinas* (Oneworld, 2009).
- (3) Brian Davies, *Aquinas* (Continuum, 2002).
- (4) Brian Davies, *The Thought of Thomas Aquinas* (Clarendon, 1993).
- (5) Etienne Gilson, *The Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, trans. Edward Bullough, ed. G. A. Elrington (Dorset Press, 1948)
- (6) Francis J. Beckwith, *Never Doubt Thomas: The Catholic Aquinas as Evangelical and Protestant* (Baylor University Press, 2019).

Learning Outcomes/Requirements

Through this course, the student will:

- A. be able to explain the historical context in which Aquinas lived and wrote.
- B. be able to understand and explain the main philosophical and theological positions of Aquinas.
- C. be able to adequately bring the thought of Aquinas into interaction with Reformed theology and contemporary philosophy.
- D. be able to evaluate the thought of Aquinas from a biblical, historical, and rational perspective, so as to defend those that are orthodox, and refute those that are not.

Suggested Course work:

- A. Participate in each class session
- B. Participate in discussions on class forum
- C. Read the primary source textbook
- D. Final paper: 15-20 pages (double space, Times New Roman, size 12 font) on a subject

discussed in class.

Class Schedule:

Tentative

All readings are included in the primary source reader.

Class	Subject covered	Suggest readings
1	Cultural background, life, and works Philosophical background	
2	Philosophy of nature	Readings from <i>De Principiis Naturae</i> and <i>De Mixtione elementorum</i>
3	Philosophical anthropology	Readings from <i>ST</i> (qq. 75-102)
4	Metaphysics & Epistemology	Readings from <i>de Ente & essentia</i>
5	Natural & Revealed Knowledge of God	Readings from <i>ST</i> & <i>SCG</i>
6	Faith & Reason	Readings from <i>ST</i> and <i>commentary on Boethius's De Trinitate</i>
7	Religious Authority – Tradition & the Bible	Readings from <i>ST</i> and <i>De Veritate</i>
8	Salvation by Faith & Works (Sacraments)	Readings from <i>ST</i>
9	Moral Theory	Readings from <i>ST</i> & <i>disputed questions on virtues</i>
10	Aesthetics Conclusion	Readings from <i>Commentary on the Divine Names of Pseudo-Dionysius, De Veritate</i> , etc.