

Sermons of Thomas Aquinas

Semester: Summer 2022
Professor: Ryan Hurd
Email: ryanhurd87@gmail.com

Course Description

This course serves as a reflective reading of a couple dozen sermons by Thomas. Although students will carefully read his sermon series on the Paternoster, in class we will work through his “academic sermons” (a series of twenty sermons delivered at university) and also his pair of inaugural lecture sermons wherein we find Thomas arguing that the catholic theologian is first and foremost a magister sacrae paginae: master of holy Scripture.

Medieval masters, aiming to be magistri sacrae paginae, disciplined themselves in three functions: lectio, reading holy Scripture; disputatio, explaining holy Scripture; and praedicatio, preaching holy Scripture. As a foremost master especially at Paris and of the newly minted Order of Preachers, Thomas’s task as a theologian included careful preparation and delivery of sermons; in these academic sermons, he was also preaching to future preachers and in the presence of current ones. Thomas, although not known today as a preacher, was and strove to be an eminent one. Through studying Thomas’s sermons, we will attempt to understand this aspect of Thomas and garner fresh insights to this task of theology: preaching.

Note for those who have taken my courses before: This course is very much more a “seminar”-style/guided reading course than I have offered in the past. Classes prioritize discussion of texts and inquiry. The course is meant to be an enjoyable summer foray where we can sharpen each other around this point.

Also note that although we are focusing on preaching and sermons, the course is designed to be profitable for all, not just pastors.

Course Format

This class is guided reading/seminar-style (not lecture-based) and will successively work through the academic sermons as translated/published in Hoogland. We will discuss, inquire, engage, etc. Additional student participation and interaction can occur on a private discussion board (discord) if desired. I am also available via email to deal with issues or questions.

Classes will meet via Zoom for **2.5 hours each week (for eight weeks)** and will be recorded for temporary access for students to view who cannot participate.

Course Requirements

- Reading of the assigned texts (30% of grade for for-credit students), most importantly Thomas.
- Careful attendance and thorough engagement with the lectures

Additional Course Requirements for Course Credit

- An essay on one sermon of your choice **and** a presentation on the same sermon for us in class (=lead discussion on that text and provide some thoughts) (70% of grade).

Course Objectives

- To have firm insight into Thomas’s thought as a preacher, particularly his manner of preaching, of moving from theology to sermon, of delivering, and of other points of method and procedure.

Course Outline

After brief introduction, we will consider Thomas’s inaugural address and then work through the twenty-one sermons translated by Hoogland. Because we will be meeting for only 8 weeks, we will obviously be covering

multiple sermons in one class period; one or two class periods we will do a deep-dive on an individual sermon. We will go with the flow and allow student interest (within reasonable limits) to guide our time spent with each one.

Introduction	Date	Comments
<i>Rigans Montes et Hic est liber</i>	TBD	TBD
H sermon 1: Veniet desideratus		
H sermon 2: Lauda et letare		
H sermon 3: Abiiciamus opera		
H sermon 4: Osanna filio David		
H sermon 5: Ecce rex tuus		
H sermon 6: Celum et terra transibunt		
H sermon 7: Ecce ego mitto		
H sermon 8: Puer Iesus		
H sermon 9: Exiit qui seminat		
H sermon 10: Petite et accipietis		
H sermon 11: Emitte spiritum		
H sermon 12: Seraphim stabant		
H sermon 13: Homo quidam fecit cenam magnam		
H sermon 14: Attendite a falsis		
H sermon 15: Homo quidam erat dives		
H sermon 16: Inveni David		
H sermon 17: Lux orta		
H sermon 18: Germinet terra		
H sermon 19: Beati qui habitant		
H sermon 20: Beata gens		
H sermon 21: Beatus vir		

Course Texts

The primary course texts are the following.

We have three primary texts: the “academic sermons,” published in Leonine 44/1 and translated by Hoogland (below); the two “inaugural addresses”; and the sermon series on the Paternoster. Note that the only texts necessary to be purchased are the translation from Hoogland (or Torrell if French is your native) (if you want to invest in Leonine 44/1, great!).

Texts

- “Academic Sermons.” Leonine 44/1, ed. by Fr. Bataillon. 2014.
<https://www.editionsducerf.fr/librairie/livre/12092/sermones-broche>
 - (Latin and English) sermons online: <https://aquinas.cc/la/en/~Veniet> Note that such corresponds to Hoogland’s *Academic Sermons* below.
- “Inaugural addresses.” *Rigans Montes et Hic est liber*: <https://aquinas.cc/la/en/~Rigans> et <https://aquinas.cc/la/en/~HicEst>
- “Paternoster.” <https://aquinas.cc/la/en/~PaterNoste>

Translations

- Hoogland, *Academic Sermons*.
https://www.amazon.com/Academic-Sermons-Fathers-Medieval-Continuations/dp/0813217288/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Hoogland%2C+Academic+Sermons&qid=1649244886&sr=8-1
 - French translation of the same. Father Torrell, *Thomas d’Aquin: Sermons. Traduction Francaise d’après le Texte Latin de l’Edition Léonine* (Paris, 2014).
 - Dutch translation of the same. Hoogland, *Thomas van Aquino: De Academische Preken*.

The secondary course texts are the following.

I encourage the purchase of Smith’s *Reading the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas*; the other texts need not be bought. If French is not known, then one need not read Bériou.

- Smith, *Reading the Sermons of Thomas Aquinas: A Beginner’s Guide*.
<https://www.amazon.com/Reading-Sermons-Thomas-Aquinas-Beginners/dp/194144797X>
- Smith, *Aquinas, Bonaventure, and the Scholastic Culture of Medieval Paris: Preaching, Prologues, and Biblical Commentary*.
https://www.amazon.com/Aquinas-Bonaventure-Scholastic-Culture-Medieval/dp/1108841155/ref=pd_lpo_1?pd_rd_i=1108841155&psc=1
- Nicole Bériou, *L’Avènement des Maîtres de la Parole: La Prédication à Paris au XIIIe Siècle*. 2 vols.