

The Catholic University of America
School of Philosophy
 Graduate Course Offerings
 SPRING 2023

PHIL 561	<p><u>Functions of Philosophy in Theology</u>: Covers themes such as kinds of discourse involved with Christian faith and the place of philosophy in the theological discourse; the relationship between natural reason and faith as reflected in early Church councils, the work of Anselm and Aquinas, and modern philosophy; hermeneutics and Christian experience; natural ethics and the theological virtues; philosophy as the exploration of natural necessities and theology as the thought about faith and revelation.</p>		
	<i>Msgr. Robert Sokolowski</i>	<i>Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:10-3:25pm</i>	<i>Aquinas 201</i>
PHIL 611	<p><u>Aristotle and His Predecessors on the Science of Nature</u>: Aristotle's <i>Physics</i> outlines a novel way of approaching and understanding nature and natural phenomena which proved decisive for the future of philosophy and science. This course aims to examine Aristotle's criticism of his predecessors, and to understand how Aristotle's own approach modifies and improves upon them. Among others, we shall aim to answer the following question: how is a science of nature possible, according to Aristotle? Texts will be drawn from across the corpus, and supplemented with readings from the Pre-Socratics.</p>		
	<i>Dr. Thomas Marré</i>	<i>Tuesdays 3:40-6:10pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 624	<p><u>Aquinas on the Book of Causes</u>: Initially received by the Latin West as a work of Aristotle's, the Neoplatonic <i>Book of Causes</i> (<i>Liber de Causis</i>) was recognized first by Thomas Aquinas to be an Arabic work consisting of emended excerpts from Proclus's <i>Elements of Theology</i>. This course will consist of a slow reading of Thomas's <i>Commentary on the Book of Causes</i>, one of his later works (1272). Focus will be on metaphysical themes such as the nature of causality in general, God's creative act, and the nature of the separate substances. Special attention will be paid to Thomas's interpretation of the <i>Book of Causes</i> in light of the thought of Aristotle and Ps.-Dionysius. Some familiarity with both Latin and Aquinas's metaphysics is recommended but not required.</p>		
	<i>Dr. Gregory Doolan</i>	<i>Fridays 11:30-2:00pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 633	<p><u>Philosophy of Natural Right and Natural Law</u>: A study of the principles of moral and political practice knowable by reason and grounded in human nature. Topics will include happiness; the character of voluntary action, including its analysis in terms of object, end, and circumstances; virtue and vice; moral precepts and the natural law. Some applications to specific moral and political questions will be considered. Special emphasis will be given to the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas.</p>		
	<i>Dr. Bradley Lewis</i>	<i>Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:40-10:55am</i>	<i>Caldwell 109</i>

PHIL 650	<p><u>Phenomenological Ontology</u>: The course examines Husserl's and some early phenomenologists's subtle and intricate discussions in ontology, with a particular focus on the notion of "essence" (holding a special status in phenomenology, which understands itself as an "insight into essences"). The course will include readings such as: a) Husserl's third Logical investigation, which has exerted a considerable influence in contemporary ontology and mereology through its discussion of notions such as independent and non-independent content, Fundierung, abstraction, whole and part, and which Husserl indicated as a key to his whole work b) The highly technical first part of Husserl's <i>Ideas I</i>, with its discussion of eidos, regional ontologies and supreme genera c) Jean Hering's "On Essences", the most systematic phenomenological account on the topic, a key text which has been translated into English only in 2022; d) Parts from Edith Stein's masterwork <i>Finite and Eternal Being</i>, in which she improves on Hering's work d) papers from Josef Seifert, a contemporary follower and systematizer of Hering's and Stein's early phenomenological tradition.</p>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="410 764 743 800"><i>Dr. Michele Averchi</i></td> <td data-bbox="743 764 1076 800"><i>Tuesdays 6:40-9:10pm</i></td> <td data-bbox="1076 764 1421 800"><i>Aquinas Library</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Dr. Michele Averchi</i>	<i>Tuesdays 6:40-9:10pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
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PHIL 702	<p><u>Descartes's Meditations</u>: This course will examine the methodological and the apologetic purposes of Descartes's "first philosophy," and their relation.</p>			
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PHIL 930	<p><u>Hegel and his Critics</u>: This course will aim to provide an overview of Hegel's philosophy that is as comprehensive as possible in one semester, while attending also to some major critics of Hegel during his lifetime and in the decade after his death (the 1830s), especially Schelling and Feuerbach.</p>			
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PHIL 696	<p><u>Master's Thesis Research</u></p>			
PHIL 996	<p><u>Doctoral Dissertation Research</u></p>			