

The Catholic University of America
School of Philosophy
Graduate Course Offerings
FALL 2021

PHIL 747	<u>Plotinus</u> : Careful reading of extensive selections from the <i>Enneads</i> , with a view to developing a synthetic understanding of Plotinus' philosophy. Emphasis on metaphysical issues, but attention also given to ethical, aesthetic, and spiritual dimensions of Plotinus' thought.		
	<i>Dr. Matthias Vorwerk</i>	<i>Mondays 12:00-2:00pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 770	<u>Kant's Moral and Political Philosophy</u> : This course is a comprehensive study of Kant's major writings in moral and political philosophy, including the <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i> , <i>Metaphysics of Morals</i> , and several political essays, focusing especially on the relationships between Kant's political and moral philosophy.		
	<i>Dr. Michael Rohlf</i>	<i>Tuesdays 2:10-4:10pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 814	<u>Aristotle's Metaphysics</u> : Close reading of the text, with special emphasis on books 1-7. Discussion of Aristotle's understanding of being, substance, identity, and first philosophy.		
	<i>Msgr. Robert Sokolowski</i>	<i>Wednesdays 2:10-4:10pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 828	<u>Contemporary Natural Law Theories</u> : The course will examine the ethical and meta-ethical (rather than legal/political) aspects of the so-called "new natural law theory." The first part of the course will present an overview of the theory, drawing from the writings of Germain Grisez, John Finnis, Joseph Boyle, and others. The remainder of the course, in dialogue with critics such as Ralph McInerny, Russell Hittinger and Kevin Flannery, will analyze in greater detail the elements of the new natural law account that have generated the most criticism. Topics to be considered in this latter part of the course include the incommensurability of basic human goods, the relationship between human nature and morality, and the first person perspective for determining the object of an action. By the end of the course, students should have a clear, nuanced understanding of the new natural law theory and be in a position to assess the theory's adequacy in comparison with competing approaches to natural law and moral philosophy more generally. Through the critical study and analysis of the new natural law theory, students will also develop a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of ethics.		
	<i>Dr. Melissa Moschella</i>	<i>Thursdays 10am-12pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
PHIL 881	<u>Aquinas on Divine Ideas</u> : A consideration of Aquinas's doctrine of the divine ideas, with a focus on their role as causal principles. This course will examine how, for Aquinas, the divine ideas play an integral role in accounting for the existence and order of the created universe. After looking at the historical influences on his doctrine, the course will consider his arguments for the existence of the divine ideas, his defense of their multiplicity, and his view of their role as exemplar causes. Some familiarity both with Latin and with Aquinas's metaphysics is recommended for this course, although neither is required.		
	<i>Dr. Gregory Doolan</i>	<i>Fridays 12:00-2:00pm</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>

<p>PHIL 910</p>	<p><u>Plato's Sophist and Statesman</u>: This course provides a detailed examination of two Platonic dialogues that have been written as a sequence, the <i>Sophist</i> and the <i>Statesman</i>. There is an organic continuity between the themes addressed in the two texts and the methods of dialectical investigation employed and analyzed in them. Our discussion will focus on: the nature of sophistry and of statesmanship, the possibility of falsehood, the ontological status of images, the dialectical method of collection and division, the relation between this method and the cosmic myth of reverse cycles, the interparticipation of Forms, the role of due measure in every craft, the complex relationships among philosophy, sophistry, and statesmanship. Exploration of these themes will involve consideration of some of the most challenging areas of Plato's late metaphysics, ethics, and epistemology. A holistic approach will guide our discussion throughout.</p>			
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<p>PHIL 696</p>	<p><u>Master's Thesis Research</u></p>			
<p>PHIL 996</p>	<p><u>Dissertation Research</u></p>			