

*The Catholic University of America*  
*School of Philosophy*  
**Graduate Course Offerings**  
 FALL 2020

<b>PHIL 608</b>	<p><u>Beginning &amp; End of Human Life</u>: An exploration of contemporary ethical and metaphysical controversies regarding the beginning and end of human life. The course begins with an overview of basic ethical concepts and principles, then goes on to examine contemporary philosophical debates on issues such as euthanasia, brain death, abortion and assisted reproductive technologies. Specific topics to be covered can be tailored to the interests of students. Examination of these issues will also involve an evaluation of competing accounts of personal identity—the psychological view, the animalist view, and the Aristotelian-Thomistichylomorphic view. Readings will be taken mostly from the works of contemporary philosophers and bioethicists, such as Patrick Lee, Robert George, Jeff McMahan, Robert Veatch, Judith Jarvis Thomson, Mary Ann Warren, Julian Savulescu, John Keown and Francis Beckwith.</p>		
	<i>Dr. Melissa Moschella</i>	<i>Tuesdays 2:10-4:10 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
<b>PHIL 708</b>	<p><u>Husserl's Logical Investigations</u>: Emphasis is on the Sixth Investigation, but some study of the others. Husserl's early formulation of his analysis of truth and meaning; the nature of intentional acts; the place of syntax and form in language; meaning and verification.</p>		
	<i>Msgr. Robert S. Sokolowski</i>	<i>Wednesdays 2:10-4:20 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
<b>PHIL 720</b>	<p><u>Hume's Religion</u>: A close reading of Hume's two principal works on "religion," the <i>Natural History of Religion</i> and the <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>, with some limited consideration, time permitting, of other works in which Hume concerns himself expressly with that subject.</p>		
	<i>Dr. John C. McCarthy</i>	<i>Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
<b>PHIL 725</b>	<p><u>Aristotle's Generation of Animals</u>: A careful reading of Books I and II of the <i>Generation of Animals</i>, as well as of select passages from Books III-V. The course will focus on the presence and activity of the soul as the cause of the generation of the living substance. Some relevant passages from Aristotle's <i>Physics</i>, <i>Metaphysics</i>, and <i>De Anima</i> will also be considered.</p>		
	<i>Fr. Ignacio de Ribera-Martin</i>	<i>Wednesdays 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
<b>PHIL 752</b>	<p><u>Modern and Contemporary Teleology</u>: This course will consist of an examination of the nature and status of teleology and teleological explanation in the life sciences in the modern and contemporary periods. In particular, the focus will be on (i) early modern critiques of Aristotelian teleology, up to and including Kant's (very partial) defense of natural teleology, and (ii) efforts in post-Darwinian philosophy of biology to make teleology 'respectable' again. Questions to be considered are: what kind of unity, if any, does the very notion of 'teleology' possess in the history and philosophy of science?; what counts as a good, scientific explanation of natural phenomena?; how are explanations of living and non-living phenomena different? and, more distantly, to what extent is an Aristotelian ethics founded on biological functions viable today?</p>		
	<i>Dr. Thomas C. Marré</i>	<i>Tuesdays 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>

<b>PHIL 754</b>	<p><u>Evil in Neoplatonic Philosophy</u>: Plotinus' conception of evil as mere privation of the good resolved the problem of dualism which Plato seemed to have accepted in his dialogues. However, his interpretation did not remain unchallenged. Proclus defended the existence of evil against Plotinus and claimed that although absolute evil does not exist, evils, which are not just privations of the good but contraries to it, do. The course will focus primarily on Plotinus, <i>Ennead</i> I, 8 (Where Do Evils Come From?) and on Proclus, <i>On the Existence of Evils</i>, but cover relevant texts from Plato's dialogues and from other Platonic thinkers too. Some knowledge of Greek and Latin is welcome, but not required.</p>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="285 457 646 499"><i>Dr. Matthias Vorwerk</i></td> <td data-bbox="646 457 992 499"><i>Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 PM</i></td> <td data-bbox="992 457 1490 499"><i>Aquinas Library</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Dr. Matthias Vorwerk</i>	<i>Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
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<b>PHIL 765</b>	<p><u>Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas</u>: Based on a close reading of qq. 5 and 6 of Thomas Aquinas's <i>Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius</i> and other texts, this course will consider his views concerning the nature and subject of metaphysics, our discovery of being as being, analogical predication of being, participation and the problem of the one and the many, and the distinction and composition of essence and <i>esse</i> in finite beings.</p>			
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<b>PHIL 847</b>	<p><u>Universals and Particulars in Analytic Metaphysics</u>: This course is an in-depth look at the metaphysical issues surrounding universals and particulars. We will mostly (although not exclusively) be grappling with investigations of these topics carried out within analytic philosophy. Topics to be discussed will include: what the "problem of universals" is in the first place; various competing solutions; distinctions among kinds of universals; the difference between universals and particulars; the principle of individuation; the nature of particular substances. This course should be of special interest to students interested in metaphysics and to students who want to learn more about the way philosophy is carried out by the majority of English-speaking philosophers today.</p>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="285 1192 646 1234"><i>Dr. Michael M. Gorman</i></td> <td data-bbox="646 1192 992 1234"><i>Mondays 4:20-6:20 PM</i></td> <td data-bbox="992 1192 1490 1234"><i>Aquinas Library</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Dr. Michael M. Gorman</i>	<i>Mondays 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
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<b>PHIL 921</b>	<p><u>Aquinas on the Categories of Being</u>: This course will focus on Aquinas's metaphysical views regarding the ten categories of being that were first identified by Aristotle. After a brief overview of Aristotle's treatment of these categories, the course will examine Aquinas's account of their derivation and of their status as analogous modes of being. It will then proceed to consider, to varying degrees, his treatment of each of the ten categories. Some familiarity both with Latin and with Aquinas's metaphysics is recommended but not required.</p>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="285 1528 719 1570"><i>Dr. Gregory T. Doolan</i></td> <td data-bbox="719 1528 1130 1570"><i>Thursdays 4:20-6:20 PM</i></td> <td data-bbox="1130 1528 1490 1570"><i>Aquinas Library</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Dr. Gregory T. Doolan</i>	<i>Thursdays 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Aquinas Library</i>
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<b>PHIL 696</b>	<u>Master's Thesis Research</u>			
<b>PHIL 996</b>	<u>Dissertation Research</u>			