

# Introduction to Thomas Aquinas

SAT1711HF 6101

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## Course Description:

This course is an on-line introduction to the thought of the 13<sup>th</sup> century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas, the most influential Catholic theologian of the last millennium. No previous knowledge of Aquinas or of philosophy is presumed.

We will start by looking at Aquinas' program of remaking Christian theology in light of the best philosophy and science of his day. Then we will examine his views on human action, human nature, human knowing and philosophical theology.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Learning Outcomes:** Students should be able to:

1. describe and distinguish the different ways we can know God: through faith, through positive but analogical knowledge, and through univocal but negative knowledge.
2. identify the cardinal and theological virtues and explain how they co-operate in leading humans to happiness.
3. explain the paradox of how the human soul is both the form of the body (and therefore dependent on it) and subsistent (and therefore independent of it).
4. describe the process by which humans move from sensation through imagination to knowledge.

## Required Text(s):

All students must purchase the following books as soon as possible:

- Kreeft, Peter, ed. *A Summa of the Summa: The Essential Philosophical Passages of St. Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologiae Edited and Explained for Beginners*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990.
- Pieper, Josef. *Guide to Thomas Aquinas*. Trans. by Richard and Clara Winston. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.

Students should purchase these books from Amazon.ca.

## Expectations:

- This online course requires a commitment of time (approximately 9 hours per week) to ensure that all readings and written work are satisfactorily completed on time.
- Operate as an adult learner respectively interacting with peers and instructor.
- In addition to notes provided by the instructor, students are to make their own summary-study notes based on the assigned readings. Do NOT submit your personal study notes to the instructor.
- A final essay (2000-2500 words)
- Login to Blackboard at least 4 times per week in order to:
  1. Study the notes/lectures prior to doing assignments.
  2. Post all assignments and responses according to the due dates
  3. Look for announcements, or e-mails from the professor or classmates.
  4. Complete a final course evaluation at the end of the term.
- Since the instructor will be collating and printing out all the postings, for consistency purposes, it is important that you strictly adhere to the following format: Times New Roman 12 pt. or Arial 12 pt., double spaced.
- Forum Postings must be no less than 300 words and not more than 400 words.
- Responses should be no less than 200 words and not exceed 300 words.
- The word count is taken seriously, and marks will be lost for not adhering to the word count.
- Use Canadian English.
- Write your submissions in full and complete sentences. No abbreviation (text message style), no bullets, no point form answers, please!
- All Forum postings and responses must be submitted before midnight (EST) on the date due. Again, please make sure to post your assignment in the correct forum.
- Please note that all correspondence between instructor and students in this course by e-mail must be done via the utoronto.ca e-mail address. Mail sent using g-mail, Hotmail, or similar frequently end up in the spam or junk box. So, if you send me an e-mail and get no response check to see that your letter was sent via the utoronto.ca e-mail address.
- For the major written assignments, there must be:
  1. A cover page.
  2. Bibliography page.
  3. All pages numbered (cover page not to be numbered).
  4. References in the form of footnotes only (no endnotes please) – See Referencing Style Guide in this Syllabus.
  5. All assignments must be typewritten, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. or

### **"Feedback" Expectations of the Instructor:**

Please note that individual feedback to every assignment post and response post is not always a feasible prospect. However, after grading all posts, I will issue "Instructor's Comments" and will make remarks as necessary on views and comments expressed in the posts (without naming any particular student).

In this course, graded assignments and responses will not be returned to the students. Treat the Discussion Board as the equivalent of an oral discussion in a class room setting. Also, consider the Discussion Board as equivalent to "class participation".

### **Method(s) of Evaluation (and Value Contributing to Final Mark):**

- 3 Unit Discussion Board Assignments and Responses:  
(Unit 1 = 10%; Unit 2 = 15%; Unit 3 = 15%) - 40%
- 3 Unit Tests: (Test 1 = 10%; Test 2 = 15%; Test 3 = 15%) - 40%
- 1 Written Assignment Paper - 20%
  - Total 100%

Below are: A) Instructions on the Use of the Discussion Board for Assignments and Responses, and B) Instructions on Taking Online Tests.

#### **A) Discussion Board Assignments and Responses:**

Students are required to do three Discussion Board Assignments – (Forum Threads Postings) and three Discussion Board Responses to Postings of other students.

For the sake of clarity an assignment unit contains the assignment forum posting and the student response posting.

It is important and imperative to post your assignments and responses in the correct and designated forum, by opening up the relevant thread. Failure to post any assignment or response in the correct forum will be treated as assignment not submitted with a grade of 0 (zero). It is not the instructor's responsibility to go searching for misplaced or mis-posted assignments and responses.

Punctuality is of the essence! No late postings or responses will be accepted. Do not procrastinate and leave starting your assignments until the last minute. It is unfair and unjust to students who have posted their forum and/or response on time, to have other students post late, thus having the advantage of seeing/reading the assignment/responses already posted. Consequently, do your assignments early.

**Note:** All Forum Postings and Response Postings will be “**Moderated**”. This means that all postings and responses will not be available (for you to see) until the instructor makes them available. They will be made available soon after the deadline date and time for Posting to the Discussion Board. When you post your assignment, you should get a status message saying “**Queued for Moderation**” – that means that your posting has gone through, but you will not see it until I publish it. Any Assignment or Response posted late will not be published, and it will be returned to the sender with a note indicating why it was not published. Always retain a copy of anything you post to the Discussion Board.

**Format to be used for all Discussion Board Postings:**

Since the instructor will be collating and printing out all the Postings, for consistency purposes, it is important that you strictly adhere to the following format:

Note Well: Use only Microsoft Word, Times New Roman 12 pt. or Arial 12 pt., left alignment, single space, no italics, and no bolding!

Forum Postings must be no less than 300 words and not more than 400 words.  
Responses should be no less than 200 words and not exceed 300 words.  
Marks can be lost for not adhering to the word count.

All Forum postings and responses must be submitted before midnight (EST) on the date due. Please make sure to post your assignment in the correct forum.

The Discussion Board assignment topics will be formulated in a broad manner to allow you to give evidence that you have read and understood the topic(s) under discussion, as well as to allow you the opportunity to provide thoughtful and insightful comments. Avoid going to the internet for your information for the assignments/responses postings. There is no need to use other outside sources for these discussion board assignments and responses, other than the prescribed readings for this course. I will be primarily looking for evidence that you have read the required texts.

Note Well: Since it can be difficult to evaluate subjectivity, strive as much as possible for objectivity in your postings. Stay focused on morality and make sure to support your positions with a valid argument.

Please remember that the discussion board is not a platform for “venting” or expressing your personal opinions and/or beliefs.

**Note about Responses to another Student’s Posting:**

Each response by a student to another student should be to a different student in the class. There is no need to respond more than once to the same student.

A good response is one that “adds to” or “advances the conversation” or even critiques the posting in a thoughtful and insightful manner. Do not repeat your own posting in your response. If you agree or disagree with the person to whom you are responding you will have to build an argument for your point of view.

Also: Do not let your “response” sound like another “assignment post”; it is, after all, a response.

### **“Feedback” on Assignments and Responses and Instructor’s Comments:**

With an online course of many students, individual feedback to every assignment post or responses is not a feasible prospect. However, after grading all posts, I will issue “Instructor’s Comments” and will make remarks as necessary on views and comments expressed in the posts without naming any student in particular.

### **Discussion Board and Class Participation:**

In this course graded assignments and responses will not be returned to the students. Treat the Discussion Board as the equivalent of an oral discussion in a classroom setting. Also consider the Discussion Board as equivalent to class participation.

### **Student Questions and Class Interaction:**

A further word about questions: Feel free to ask the instructor any course-related questions just as you would do in a classroom, but since classroom questions are answered publicly for all in the class to hear, all questions, related to the course content, asked, even if asked in a private-mail, will be responded to in the Instructor’s Comments. Naturally and as always, personal matters in an e-mail, not course-content related, will be responded to privately and confidentially.

Further, depending on the nature of the question, I might even place this question in a discussion forum for student interaction. In such a case, I will monitor the discussion, without intervening, except to correct an error (if any), and this will again be treated in the Instructor’s Comments. Hopefully this will enhance student interaction in this course.

## **B) Instructions on Taking the Online Tests:**

Tests are objective and are taken on blackboard. Questions on the test may be from a variety of questions such as: multiple choice, matching columns, true or false, fill in the blanks, etc. Tests questions can be drawn from the text book, PowerPoints used in the unit, supplementary notes, and the Instructor’s Summary/Comments.

Tests are to be written at the appointed times. Failing to write an on-line test within the designated times can be problematic. Make-up tests may be permitted only for tests missed for a serious reason provided that the instructor has been notified by e-mail before the test. There will be no make-up tests for students who fail to write a test and fail to contact the instructor before the test. However, if a verifiable emergency makes it not possible to contact the instructor before the test time, the instructor must be notified *ASAP*, and depending on the circumstances, if permission is given to write this test, it must be written *ASAP* within 48 hours of the scheduled test date. Tests not made up within that time period, may, and subject to the instructor’s discretion alone, be made up only at the end of the course.

Although students should prepare their own review questions, a list of test-study topics will be provided within the context of the Instructor’s Comments preceding the test in question.

### **Time Limit on Tests:**

Tests can vary from a minimum of 30 questions to a maximum of **60** questions per test. Test time limit will be one minute per question. Manage your time well, and try not to spend more than one minute on any one question.

The test can be taken between **12.01 a.m. and 11.59 p.m. on the day/date of the test as**

**stipulated in the Course Schedule.**

Do not delay starting your test until the last minute. Starting a test too late might not leave you sufficient time to conclude the test before it becomes unavailable at midnight. Please be advised that technical assistance may not be available to you for Blackboard issues outside of regular working hours.

**“Honour System”:**

Unlike in-classroom tests which are proctored, online tests imply an “honour system” so that the integrity of the tests will be maintained in the same manner as an in-classroom test. These tests are not intended to be open-book tests. Please maintain the integrity of the test. It is unethical to save the test by capturing and retaining any of the test questions. Consequently, please do not image capture, copy and paste, photograph, etc. any test question.

**Login for Test:**

On the day of the test, when you are ready to start the test, Login in to Blackboard, Click on **Tests** on left side and start the test.

You have **only one login attempt** per test. In other words, you are allowed to login only once for the test and complete the entire test. Do NOT attempt to **SAVE** any test question. You might find yourself bumped out of the test.

Before starting your test, make sure the computer you will be using for the test is in good working condition, and with adequate speed.

After you login, you will not see the entire test – Only one question at a time will be available to you. Answer that question, submit it, and another question will appear. You will not be able to backtrack to change your answer.

Manage your time well. Try not to spend more than one minute on any one question. Your test grade will appear in the Grade Center on completion of your test.

Note: A frequently asked question is: Can I see my test to review it after it has been graded? Because of the setup of the online course on Blackboard, it is not possible to give you a copy of your test.

However, if you wish to see your test, you will be able to view it in person (not online) in the presence of the assistant registrar at St. Augustine’s Seminary. An appointment to view your test, time-limited duration, will be necessary with the assistant registrar. At that time, no copying of the test questions and answers will be permitted.

**Assignment/Response Grading Rubric:**

The Three Assignment Postings and Three Response Postings will be graded according to the following rubric:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well written in a <b>thoughtful and insightful</b> manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well written in a <b>thoughtful and insightful</b> manner.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence shown reflecting that <b>you have read entire</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advances</b> the conversation with <b>critical analysis.</b></li> </ul>

chapter/unit.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectively</b> focused on the assigned topic and in the writer's own words. Do <b>not</b> quote from the text book or any other source. Be as <b>original</b> as you can in expressing all ideas <b>in your own words</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objectively</b> focused on the assigned topic, but original in your critique.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content presented was <b>objectively correct and complete</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spotted and corrected errors</b> (if any) in the work of the student to whom the response is being made.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proofread and Word Limit</b> adhered to. <b>Correct use of English (grammar and spelling are important).</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proofread and Word Limit</b> adhered to. <b>Correct use of English (grammar and spelling are important).</b></li> </ul>

5/5 in the Assignment Postings and Response Postings reflect all five of the above bullets.  
4/5 in the Assignment Postings and Response Postings reflect only four of the above bullets.  
3/5 in the Assignment Postings and Response Postings reflect only three of the above bullets.  
2/5 in the Assignment Postings and Response Postings reflect only two of the above bullets.  
1/5 in the Assignment Postings and Response Postings reflects only one of the above bullets.  
**.5 mark will be given as necessary at the instructor's discretion for any of the above bullets.**  
**0/5 reflects late or no work submitted.**

### Referencing Style Guide:

Papers are to be prepared according to the rules laid down in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students & Researchers*. 8th edition. Revised and edited by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, and the University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013, available in the St. Augustine's Seminary Library. The academic writing resources, which includes a quick guide to the Turabian style, can be found on the SAS website: [www.staugustines.on.ca/library/academic\\_writing\\_resources](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/library/academic_writing_resources)

### Policies and Procedures:

Students who enroll in courses agree by virtue of that enrolment to abide by all of the academic and non-academic policies, rules and regulations of the University and St. Augustine's Seminary (SAS) of Toronto [or their home TST college], as set out in the Student Handbook, and confirm responsibility for payment of associated fees, and agree to ensure that the accuracy of personal information such as the current mailing address, telephone number, and utoronto.ca email address is maintained.

All students should read the Toronto School of Theology Basic Degree handbook: [www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks](http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks)

All students should be aware of the Key Academic Dates:  
[www.staugustines.on.ca/current\\_students/registrar/academic\\_calendar](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/current_students/registrar/academic_calendar)

SAS students should familiarize themselves with St. Augustine’s student policies: The SAS Bulletin; SAS Fee Schedule; SAS Refund Policy; SAS Grievance Policy; SAS Student Code of Conduct; and Consent to Use of Personal Information. The SAS Handbook is available on our website: [www.staugustines.on.ca/current\\_students/student\\_information](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/current_students/student_information)

**Attendance Policy:** For on-site course and online courses, attendance is expected. Students who miss more than 3 classes for an on-site course cannot pass the course. All absences must be reported to the instructor. In an online course, failure to log onto the course and participate as instructed for 3 weeks similarly cannot pass the course – see section called “Expectations”.

**Use of Electronic Devices in Class (Laptops, Phones, iPads, iPods, etc.):**  
 As a matter of courtesy and to avoid distracting others, please use technology in class only for class-related purposes.

**Grading Schematic:**

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Other qualities expected of students
<b>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.</b>				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and Creative	Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base
<b>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</b>				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature
B	73-76	3.0	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria

**Academic Integrity:**

All TST students are subject to U of T’s “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.” Copies of the code are available at [www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). Please take special note of the section on plagiarism. For a helpful set of guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism, see [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize). This is part of a more general—and equally helpful—website that provides advice on academic writing ([www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice)).

- a) The following examples of plagiarism [not limited to these examples] are violations of St. Augustine’s Seminary of Toronto’s policy on Academic Integrity, as outlined in the Toronto School of Theology Basic Degree Handbook section 15 and the University of Toronto’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*:

- (i) using another's ideas without accurate citations;
  - (ii) using the words of another (e.g., author, instructor, information source), without quotation marks (or appropriate indentation) and proper citation;
  - (iii) paraphrasing the work of others without putting the idea into one's own words but instead by just changing a few words or rearranging the sentence structure;
  - (iv) not correctly referencing all direct quotes or borrowed ideas;
  - (v) submitting an assignment (in whole or in part) for credit multiple times.
- b) When an assignment is submitted in all courses, it represents one's own efforts and:
- (i) Any proofreading by another is limited to indicating areas of concern such as spelling, grammatical or formatting errors which are then corrected by the student. Proofreading is not to indicate errors of substance related to the argument or research limitations of the assignment.
  - (ii) The final version of the assignment is handed in and not a draft.
  - (iii) A student's assignment (answers/content) is kept to his/her self and will not be shared with others, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Discussing an assignment is a useful academic activity; however, students must accept the responsibility for properly documenting ideas presented in their final assignments. If an assignment is shared for proofreading purposes (see b. (i) above) students should be encouraged to keep an accurate record of their research, and versions of their assignments. Any reproduction of an assignment by another for the purpose of the same assignment is still considered plagiarism.
  - (iv) If students are to work collaboratively on an assignment, then a notation as to who was responsible for the idea and for the writing of the idea is to be indicated.

**Policy on Late Assignments:**

All assignments are expected to be completed by the deadline indicated.

Should any assignment or paper be submitted after the due date, 5% will be deducted for each calendar day it is late.

Any exception to this policy requires the permission of the instructor who will take into account the particular situation of the student or the case of documented illness or some other such serious reason.

Should an instructor extend the due date for an assignment, the penalty will be applied after the new deadline.

Any possibility of waiving the penalty may require consultation and approval of the Academic Dean.

**Policy on Unclaimed Term Work:**

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will be destroyed according to SAS Records Retention Policy.

If a student is unable to retrieve their term work in person and would like the material returned, they must include a self-addressed, stamped (with proper postage) envelope. The documents requested will be returned after the final grades for the course are made available through ROSI.

**Recording Lectures:**

Recording lectures by any means is strictly prohibited without the written prior permission of the instructor. If permission is obtained, the recording may be used only for Academic purposes in the course and should not be published or circulated in any form, including written. The recording remains the intellectual property of the instructor and institution.

**Tentative Schedule of Lectures/Modules:**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	
<b><i>Module One. Introduction</i></b>			
Unit 1 (April 23-29)	Introduction		
Unit 2 (April 30-May 6)	Faith and Reason		

<b><i>Module Two. Human Action (=Ethics)</i></b>			
Unit 3 (May 7-13)	Happiness		
	Assignment 1 Available on the Discussion Board on Blackboard on Monday, May 7	Due date Monday, May 14 No later than midnight	
	Response to another student	Due date Wednesday, May 16 no later than midnight	
	Instructor's comments	Monday, May 21	
Unit 4 (May 14-20)	Good and Evil		
	Test 1	Wednesday, May 18 Test is available 24 hours from midnight to midnight	
Unit 5 (May 21-27)	The Virtues		

	Assignment 2 Available on the Discussion Board on Blackboard on Monday, May 21	Due date Monday, May 28 No later than midnight	
	Response to another student	Due date Wednesday, May 30 no later than midnight	
	Instructor's comments	Monday, June 4	

<b>Module Three. Human Nature (= Philosophical Anthropology)</b>			
Unit 6 (May 28 June 3)	Body and Soul		

<b>Module Four. Human Knowledge (=Epistemology)</b>			
Unit 7 (June 4-10)	What Do We Know		
	Test 2	Wednesday, June 6 Test is available 24 hours from midnight to midnight	
Unit 8 (Jun 11-17)	How we know the World, Ourselves and God		
	Assignment 3 Available on the Discussion Board on Blackboard on Monday, June 11	Due date Monday, June 18 No later than midnight	
	Response to another student	Due date Wednesday, June 20 no later than midnight	
	Instructor's comments	Monday, June 25	

<b>Module Four. The Devine (= Philosophical Theology)</b>			
Unit 9 (Jun 18-24)	God's existence		
Unit 10	God's Nature		

(Jun 25-30)			
	Test 3	Wednesday, June 27 Test is available 24 hours from midnight to midnight	

### Online Activities

1. Do assigned readings, take notes on them and read on-line lectures.
2. Ask clarifying questions on readings or lectures.
3. Post a thoughtful answer to the weekly question posed at the end of the on-line lecture.
4. Respond thoughtfully to someone else's weekly posting.
5. Read instructor's weekly summary of on-line discussions.
6. Complete one final essay (2,000-2,500 words).
  - a. The final essay is due midnight, Friday, July 6.
7. Late assignments will be penalized 5% of grade per day.

### Select Bibliography:

#### Primary Sources:

- Thomas Aquinas. *A Summa of the Summa*. Ed. Peter Kreeft. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990.
- ----- . *Summa theologiae*, 5 vols. Ed. by the Piana Commission. Ottawa, 1953.
- ----- . *Summa theologiae*. 3 vols. Trans. and ed. by the Fathers of the English Dominican Province. New York: Benzinger Bros., 1947-8.
- ----- . *Summa theologiae: A Concise Translation*. Trans. and ed. Timothy McDermott. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 1989.

#### Secondary Sources:

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- Torrell, J.-P. *Saint Thomas Aquinas, II. Spiritual Master*. Trans. R. Royal. Washington, D.C.: 2003.
- Weisheipl, J. A. *Friar Thomas d'Aquino. His Life, Thought, and Works*. 3rd ed. Washington: 1983.