

The Catholic University of America
School of Philosophy
Graduate Course Offerings
SPRING 2019

PHIL 515	<u>Before Printing: The Establishment and Transmission of Ancient and Medieval Philosophical Texts:</u> After looking at some Latin and Greek Manuscripts in the library, the course will reflect on how editors establish a text and how a text is transmitted. The course's main study will be Aristotle's <i>De Anima</i> . After examining the three main editions of <i>De Anima</i> (Ross' two editions and Siweck), we will consider how the text was transmitted via the Greek commentators, and the Arabic and Latin translations and commentaries. Prerequisites: some knowledge of Greek or Latin.		
	<i>Dr. Thérèse-Anne Druart</i>	<i>Every Other Tuesday 10:00AM – 12:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 561	<u>Functions of Philosophy in Theology:</u> Covers themes such as kinds of discourse involved with Christian faith and the place of philosophy in theological discourse; the relationship between natural reason and faith as reflected in the 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.		
	<i>M.sgr. Robert S. Sokolowski</i>	<i>Tuesday & Thursday 2:10-3:25 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 608	<u>The Beginning and End of Human Life: Ethical and Metaphysical Controversies:</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 the students. Examination of these issues will also involve an evaluation of competing accounts of personal identity: the psychological view, the animalistic view, and the Aristotelian-Thomistic hylomorphic 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.		
	<i>Dr. Melissa Moschella</i>	<i>Monday 12:00-2:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 702	<u>Descartes' Meditations:</u> The methodological and the apologetic purposes of Descartes' "first philosophy," and their relation.		
	<i>Dr. John C. McCarthy</i>	<i>Tuesday 6:30-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 703	<u>Dante and Philosophy:</u> A reading of the <i>Convivio</i> and the <i>Commedia</i> , with focus on philosophical themes. Reading knowledge of Italian is recommended, but not required.		
	<i>Dr. Kevin J. White</i>	<i>Monday 5:00-7:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 729	<u>Aristotle's Posterior Analytics:</u> The <i>Posterior Analytics</i> is one of the most important texts for the medieval development of Aristotelian philosophy. This course is a close study of the text in its ancient context. Topics include theory of science, explanation through causes, induction and deduction, definition and signification.		
	<i>Dr. Jonathan A. Buttaci</i>	<i>Wednesday 2:10-4:10 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 766	<u>Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas II:</u> This course presupposes the completion of <i>Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas, Part I</i> , or its equivalent. This course will concentrate on Aquinas's view on the essential structure of finite being. Topics will include his views on the nature of substance and accident, the derivation of the predicaments, the relationship between the individual subject and the act of being (<i>esse</i>), the issue of a distinctive <i>esse</i> for accidents, the causal relation between substance and accidents, the relationships between the soul and its powers, the nature of prime matter and substantial form, unicity of substantial form and the problem of the individuation of material substances.		
	<i>M.sgr. John F. Wippel</i>	<i>Thursday 4:10-6:10 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>

PHIL 770	<u>Kant's Moral and Political Philosophy:</u> This course will be a detailed study of Kant's late work in political and moral philosophy, <i>The Metaphysics of Morals</i> (1797), together with recent secondary literature. Familiarity with some of Kant's earlier work on these subjects – which includes the <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , the <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i> , and various political and historical essays – is desirable but not required.		
	<i>Dr. Michael Shannon Rohlf</i>	<i>Wednesday 12:00-2:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 788	<u>Medieval Epistemology: Thirteenth Century Themes, Abstraction, Illumination and the First Known:</u> This course aims at articulating the overarching themes of the theory of knowledge in thirteenth century philosophy. Beginning with the classical texts that posed epistemological problems for thinkers of that century—Aristotle's <i>Physics</i> and <i>De anima</i> , Augustine's <i>De libero arbitrio</i> , and Avicenna's <i>De prima philosophia</i> and <i>De anima</i> , and Averroës, <i>Commentarium in libros De anima</i> —, we shall treat each of the major themes in tandem by reading, among other texts, Albert the Great's <i>De homine</i> , Thomas Aquinas's <i>Super Boetium De Trinitate</i> , and selections from St. Bonaventure's <i>Comm. in Sent.</i> , as well as his <i>QQ. disp de scientia Christi</i> . Thereafter, we shall pursue the themes in their treatment by later authors, including Henry of Ghent, Matthew of Aquasparta, Vital du Four, and John Duns Scotus. Reading knowledge of Latin is required, inasmuch as not all course reading materials will be made available in English translation.		
	<i>Dr. Timothy Noone</i>	<i>Wednesday 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 818	<u>Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy:</u> Treatment of the central issues in Wittgenstein's philosophy after the <i>Tractatus</i> , including language games, following a rule, private language, and family resemblances. Emphasis is placed on the <i>Philosophical Investigations</i> . Different interpretations of the later Wittgenstein will be examined.		
	<i>Dr. Jean C. De Groot</i>	<i>Monday 2:10-4:10 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 870	<u>Avicenna's Metaphysics:</u> Avicenna is one of the greatest metaphysicians and had much influence on Aquinas and Duns Scotus. A close analysis of selected passages of the metaphysical part of the <i>Shifa'</i> , known in both Arabic and Medieval Latin, will introduce his ontology.		
	<i>Dr. Thérèse-Anne Druart</i>	<i>Friday 12:00-2:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 910	<u>Plato's <i>Sophist</i> and <i>Statesman</i>:</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, and 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.		
	<i>Dr. Cristina Ionescu</i>	<i>Thursday 12:00-2:00 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 929	<u>Aquinas's Commentary on the <i>De Hebdomadibus</i>:</u> This course will consist of a slow reading of Thomas Aquinas's Exposition on Boethius's <i>De hebdomadibus</i> . In this commentary work, Aquinas follows Boethius in examining the question of how created substances are good inasmuch as they exist, despite the fact that they are not substantial goods, for only God is good by his very essence. In looking at Aquinas's own answer to this question, this course will examine such themes as his account of participation, his doctrine of the real distinction between essence and <i>esse</i> , his metaphysics of goodness, and his use of semantics principles as a tool for such metaphysical investigations. Some familiarity with both Latin and Aquinas's metaphysics is recommended, but not required.		
	<i>Dr. Gregory T. Doolan</i>	<i>Tuesday 4:20-6:20 PM</i>	<i>Location listed in Cardinal Station</i>
PHIL 696	<u>Master's Thesis Research:</u> Please register for the section number that corresponds to your advisor. If you do not yet have an advisor, please register for Section 01.		
PHIL 996	<u>Dissertation Research:</u> Please register for the section number that corresponds to your advisor. If you do not yet have an advisor, please register for Section 01.		