

AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHL-D500	Use of Philosophy in Theology	3 credits
Fr. Leo Almazán, O. P.		Fall 2014
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Next to Holy Scriptures, philosophy is the most important source for Christian theology. Many paramount theological questions (e.g., God's existence and nature, creation, evil, human nature and action, *etc.*) have been formulated using the vocabulary and methods employed by various schools of philosophy. For these reason, it is important and necessary to understand how different schools of philosophy have influenced various schools of theology in their attempt to give account of the Christian faith.

Course Description:

This course will critically examine, in a historical and thematic way, some of the more important philosophical foundations of Christian theology. Particular attention will be given to those philosophical principles and ideas that form the basis for contemporary theological discourses.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will

- ❖ Appreciate the influence that philosophical language and method has in Christian theology through a critical reading of philosophical and theological texts;
- ❖ Articulate and operationalize the basic philosophical principles that underpin the Catholic Church's exposition of Christian doctrine; and
- ❖ Acquire a basic philosophical foundation for higher-level courses in theology.

Required Texts:

1. Caputo John D., *Philosophy and Theology* (Nashville, TN.: Abingdon Press, 2006).
2. Diogenes Allen and Eric O. Springsted, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: John Knox Press, 2007).
3. Diogenes Allen and Eric O. Springsted, eds., *Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992).
4. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Fides et Ratio* [On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason] (September 14, 1998), http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_15101998_fides-et-ratio_en.html (accessed March 29, 2014).
5. There will be other required readings (designated with an asterisk * in our syllabus) that will either be available on-line or that can be found in Pius V library.