

“It has been well said of Aristotle, ‘Solet Aristoteles quaerere pugnam’; ‘Aristotle has a habit of seeking a fight.’ He is seeking a fight not because he loves fight and enmity but because he loves peace and friendship; but true peace and friendship can only be found in the truth.”

Leo Strauss¹

“It will not be possible to conceal much longer from anybody the fact that St. Thomas Aquinas was one of the great liberators of the human intellect.... Thomas was a very great man who reconciled religion with reason, who expanded it towards experimental science, who insisted that the senses were the windows of the soul and that the reason had a divine right to feed upon facts, and that it was the business of the Faith to digest the strong meat of the toughest and most practical of pagan philosophies”

G.K. Chesterton²

HONORS 3030: Humanities Colloquium

Aristotle and Aquinas

Spring 2013

Instructor: James Stoner
Stubbs 240 (tel: 578-2538; e-mail: poston@lsu.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.,
Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00-10:00 a.m.,
and by appointment (call 578-2142)

Course requirements:

- Attendance at every class and participation in class discussion [15%]
- Four 400-word essays on the reading, two on Aristotle, two on Aquinas [20%]
- Two take-home exams, one each on Aristotle & Aquinas (Mar. 8 & Apr. 19) [30%]
- Topic for final paper (due March 27)
- Class presentation on final paper (during April) [5%]
- Ten-page paper on modern-day Aristotelianism and/or Thomism, due Wednesday, May 8, 9:30 a.m. [30%]

Books available for purchase:

- Anthony Rizzi, *The Science Before Science* (Institute for Advanced Physics/AuthorHouse) [9781418465049]
- Richard McKeon, ed., *Basic Works of Aristotle* (Modern Library) [9780375757990]
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa of the Summa* [ed. Peter Kreeft] (Ignatius Press) [9780898703009]
- Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship* (Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies) [9780888442512]

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (tr, Robert Bartlett & Susan Collins) (Chicago) [9780226026756] (recommended)
- John Finnis, *Aquinas: Political, Moral, and Legal Theory* (Oxford) [9780198780854] (recommended)

Website and Reserve:

A course website, including material listed as “on-line,” is available for registered students on Moodle. Many of the readings for the course are also available in the library on reserve, as are several secondary works on our principal authors. All of Aristotle’s works and the complete *Summa Theologica* by Aquinas are available on-line.

SYLLABUS:

Mon., 1/14 Introduction

Wed., 1/16 Rizzi, *The Science Before Science*, preface, ch. 1-3

Wed., 1/23 *The Science Before Science*, ch. 4-6

I. ARISTOTLE

Mon., 1/28 Aristotle, *Physics*, Book II, IV

Wed., 1/30 Aristotle, *De Anima*, Book I, ch. 1; Book II, ch. 1-2; Book III, ch. 6-13
Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, Book I, ch. 1-2; Book XII

Mon., 2/4 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I-II

Wed., 2/6 *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book III-IV

[MARDI GRAS BREAK]

Wed., 2/13 *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books V-VI

Fri., 2/15 *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VII-VIII

Mon., 2/18 *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book IX-X

Wed., 2/20 Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I, III

Mon., 2/25 *Politics*, Books IV, V

Wed., 2/27 [no class]

Mon., 3/4 Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book I, ch. 1-6; Book II, ch. 1-4, 10-14

Wed., 3/6 Aristotle, *Poetics*

Fri., 3/8 TAKE-HOME EXAM on Aristotle due

II. AQUINAS

- Mon., 3/11 Leo Strauss, "On the Mutual Influence of Philosophy and Theology"
Peter Kreeft, Introduction to *Summa of the Summa*, pp. 11-22
Aquinas, *Summa of the Summa*, I, q. 1 (pp. 33-50)
[John Finnis, *Aquinas*, ch. 1] (recommended)
- Wed., 3/13 *Summa of the Summa*, I, q. 2-7 (pp. 51-99)
Rizzi, *Science Before Science*, ch. 8
- Mon., 3/18 *Summa of the Summa*, I, q. 8-26 (pp. 100-185)
- Wed., 3/20 *Summa of the Summa*, I, q. 44-49, 65, 103-105 (pp. 189-239)
- Mon., 3/25 *Summa of the Summa*, I, q. 75-93 (pp. 243-344)
- Wed., 3/27 *Summa of the Summa*, I-II, q. 1-13, 18-21 (pp. 349-432)
Rizzi, *Science Before Science*, ch. 9
- [SPRING BREAK]
- Mon., 4/8 *Summa of the Summa*, I-II, q. 26-29, 55-89 (pp. 433-499)
- Wed., 4/10 *Summa of the Summa*, I-II, q. 90-97 (pp. 33-50) [read full text on the web]
- Mon., 4/15 Aquinas, *On Kingship*, Book I
- Wed., 4/17 *On Kingship*, Book II
- Fri., 4/19 TAKE-HOME EXAM on Aquinas due

III. ARISTOTELIANISM AND THOMISM TODAY

- Mon., 4/22 Rizzi, *The Science Before Science*, ch. 7, 10
- Wed., 4/24 student presentations
- Mon., 4/29 student presentations
- Wed., 5/1 student presentations
- Wed., 5/8 **FINAL PAPER DUE**

¹ quoted in Thomas Pangle, *Leo Strauss: An Introduction to his Thought and Intellectual Legacy* (Johns Hopkins, 2006), p. 6

² *St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox* (Doubleday, 1956), pp. 32-33