



PHIL 243 Metaphysics

Fall 2022

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

8 Sept., 2022 – 8 Dec. 2022

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 – 11:20 am

Instructors Name: Jason West, Ph.D.
Office: 2-01
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:35 – 3:30pm
Telephone: 780-392-2448
Email: jason.west@newman.edu
Skype:

Course Description

A philosophical study of being in its various dimensions. Issues such as substance and attributes, transcendental, being and essence, analogy, and universals will be addressed with special reference to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. Brief selections from historical and contemporary authors will be introduced in the classes that contrast with the primary texts to be studied.

Course Objectives

B.A. Program Students

1. Demonstrate an ability to read analytically and critically assess primary sources in philosophy.
2. A clear understanding of the main principles of Thomistic metaphysics.
3. To write philosophical commentary and argumentative essays on philosophical topics.
4. Logically assess philosophical arguments in writing and orally.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

5. 3 page commentary from a passage of On Being and Essence. Value 20%, Due 13 Oct.
6. 8 page research paper on divine simplicity in S.T. I q. 3. 40%, Due 24 Nov.
7. Final Exam to be scheduled by the Registrar covering material from the entire course.
Value 40%

Textbooks

Aquinas: Basic Works (The Hackett Aquinas), ed. Jeffery Hause and Robert Pasnau. Hackett Publishing.

Recommended Reading

Norris Clarke, SJ, *The One and the Many: A Contemporary Thomist Philosophy*,

Late Submission Policy.

-10% per weekday late. Exceptions will only be given in advance for legitimate reasons. Exceptions after the fact will only be considered in the case of unforeseen emergencies.

Course Schedule

8 Sept.	Intro to the Course. What is Metaphysics? (Proem. Commentary on Aristotle)
13-15 Sept.	Essence in Composite Substances, <i>De Ente</i> Ch. 1 and 2
20- 22 Sept.	Understanding of Essence, <i>De Ente</i> Ch. 3
27-29 Sept.	Separate Substances, <i>De Ente</i> Ch. 4
4-6 Oct.	Diverse beings and accidents, <i>De Ente</i> Ch. 5 and 6.
11-13 Oct.	Divine Simplicity, <i>Summa</i> , I, q. 3
18-20 Oct.	God's Perfection. Goodness in General. <i>Summa</i> , I, qq. 4 and 5.
25-27 Oct.	God's Goodness and Infinity. <i>Summa</i> , I, qq. 6 and 7
1-3 Nov.	God's Omnipresence, Immutability and Eternity. <i>Summa</i> , I, qq. 8-10
READING WEEK	
15-17 Nov.	Our Knowledge of God, <i>Summa</i> , I, q. 12, aa. 1-6
22-24 Nov.	Knowledge of God, <i>Summa</i> , I, q. 12, aa. 8-13
29 Nov.-Dec. 1	Divine Names, <i>Summa</i> , I, q. 13, aa. 1-6
6-8 Dec.	Divine Names, <i>Summa</i> , I, q. 13, aa. 7-12

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

<u>Undergraduate Studies</u>		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).

American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the **Student Handbook** for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting the Dean of Students, Lorraine Spenrath at 780-392-2450; email lorraine.spenrath@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)