



**Philosophy 2214 (570)
THOMISTIC PHILOSOPHY I
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: M. Fox
Email: mtfox@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

An introduction to the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas through textual analysis and discussion of a selection of his philosophical writings. The course will concern principally his philosophy of nature, philosophical psychology, moral philosophy, metaphysics and philosophical theology.

Antirequisite(s): Philosophy 2014.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: PHILOSOP

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*

Philosophy 2214 (570)
THOMISTIC PHILOSOPHY I

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Dr. Michael T. Fox

mtfox@uwo.ca

Office hours information can be found on OWL Brightspace.

Course Description

An introduction to the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas through textual analysis and discussion of a selection of his philosophical writings. The course will concern primarily his philosophy of nature, philosophical psychology, moral philosophy, metaphysics, and philosophical theology. **Antirequisite(s): *Philosophy 2014*.**

Course Prerequisites and Antirequisites

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites." **Senate Policy**

Goals of Course

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge

What Should Students Know:

- To understand St. Thomas Aquinas's arguments in five major areas: the philosophy of nature, the philosophy of soul, the philosophy of human action, metaphysics, and philosophical theology.
(See below, *Course Outline 2025-2026*)

Skills

What Should Students Do:

- To exhibit a sense of wonder and a desire to probe more deeply into the mysteries of God, the universe, and human nature.
- To read carefully the assigned readings.
- To follow carefully the classroom lectures.
- To show in class discussions and written work a firm grasp of the assigned readings and classroom lectures.
- To develop a position on the assigned readings and classroom lectures.
- To present in class discussions and written work sound arguments for their position.
- To be able to write in clear, concise and grammatically correct English.

Attitudes

What Students Should Value:

- To participate in discussions in a way that makes clear their positions, enables them to listen openly, and maintains respect for others while disagreeing with their ideas.

Course Requirements

First Semester

- Two Exams
- (1) Monday, October 6
- (2) Monday, November 10

One Essay (1,500 words), due Monday, November 17

Second Semester

- Two Exams
- (1) Monday, January 26
- (2) Monday, March 9

One Essay (1,500 words), due Monday, March 16

Final Exam: Held on a date in April to be set by the University.

Allotment of Marks

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Four Exams | 35% |
| Two Essays | 35% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Required Text

Aquinas. *Selected Writings*. Translated by Ralph McInerny. New York: Penquin Books, 1998. **Cost: \$24**

Aquinas. *Selected Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Translated by A.C. Pegis. New York: Modern Library. **On reserve. NO COST (This book is on SPS reserve. It is out of print.)**

The McInerny text may be purchased at the U.W.O Book Store. You may be able to purchase a copy at the Used Book Store at Western.

Selected readings in philosophy may be assigned for certain course sections in addition to the readings from McInerny and Pegis. These additional readings will be handouts from the professor at no additional cost to students.

Course Outline (2025-2026)

1. *Philosophy of Nature*

- Read: McInerny, pp. 18-29 (selections will be made)

- Supplementary Sources:

Aquinas. *Commentary on Aristotle's Physics*. Trans. R. Blackwell et al. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1963.

Aquinas. *Basic Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Ed. A. Pegis. New York: Random House, 1945.

Aristotle. *Physics and De Partibus Animalium*. In *The Basic Works Aristotle*. Ed. R. McKeon. New York: Random House, 1941.

Bacon. *Advancement of Learning. Novum Organum. New Atlantis*. Ed. R. McKeon. New York: random House, 1941.

Darwin. *The Origin of Species and The Descent of Man*. New York: Modern Library, 1872.

De Koninck, C. *The Unity and Diversity of Natural Science*.

Einstein, A. *The Evolution of Physics: From Early Concepts to Relativity and Quanta*. New York: Touchstone, 1966.

Hempel, C. *Philosophy of Natural Science*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1966.

Nahm, M.C. *Selections from Early Greek Philosophy*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1964.

Newton. *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy and Optics*. Trans. A. Motte. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1952.

Smith, V.E. *The General Science of Nature*. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1958.

2. *Philosophical Psychology*

- Read:

McInerny, pp. 410-428 (selections will be made)

Pegis, pp. 280-428 (selections will be made)

- Supplementary Sources:

Aristotle. *De Anima*. New York: Penquin Classics, 1986.

Aristotle. *De Anima in the Version of William of Moerbeke and the Commentary of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Trans. K Foster and S. Humphries. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1951.

De Koninck, C. *Is the Word "Life" Meaningful?*

Halverson, W.H., ed. *Concise Readings in Philosophy*. New York: Random House, 1981.

Reith, H. *An Introduction to Philosophical Psychology*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1961.

Taylor, R., ed. *The Empiricists: Locke, Berkeley and Hume*. New York: Doubleday, 1974.

3. *Moral Philosophy*

- Read:

McInerny, pp. 482-709 (selections will be made)

Pegis, pp. 429-650 (selections will be made)

- Supplementary Sources:

Aquinas. *Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. C.I. Litzinger. Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1964.

Aristotle. *Ethic. In The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Ed. R. McKeon. New York: Random House, 1941.

Hobbes. *Leviathan*. London: Routeledge, 1886.

Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980.

Machiavelli. *The Prince and the Discourses*. Trans. Max Lerner. New York: Modern Library, 1950.

MacIntyre, A. *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981.

McIntyre, R. *Aquinas on Human Action*. Washington, D.C.: The University of America Press, 1992.

Oesterle, John. *Ethics: Introduction to Moral Science*. N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1957.

Plato. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*. Ed. E. Hamilton. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1978.

Peiper, Josef. *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1965.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *On the Social Contract, Discourses on the Origin of Inequality, and Discourse of Political Economy*. Indiana: Hackett Publishing, 1983.

Simon, Yves. *Definition of Moral Virtue*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1986.

Strauss, L. *Natural Right and History*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1953.

4. *Metaphysics and Philosophical Theology*

- Read:

McInerney, pp. 243-256; pp. 290-409 (selections will be made)

Pegis, pp. 20-279 (selections will be made)

- Supplementary Sources:

Aquinas. *Commentary on the Metaphysics of Aristotle*. Trans. J.P. Rowan. Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1961.

Aquinas. *The Division and Methods of the Sciences*. Trans. A. Maurer. Toronto: The Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1963.

Aristotle. *Metaphysics*. In *The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Ed. R. Mckeon. New York: Random House, 1941.

Descartes. *Philosophical Works of Descartes*. Trans. E.S. Haldane. New York: Dover, 1931.

Dodds, Michael. *The Unchanging God of Love: Teach of St. Thomas Aquinas on the Divine Immutability*. Fribourg: Editions Universitaires, 1986.

Hick, J., ed. *The Existence of God*. New York: Mcmillian Publishing, 1964.

Maritain, J. *Approaches to God*. Trans. P. O'Reilly. New York: The Macmillian Company, 1967.

Essays

Careful consideration will be given to your ability to write in a coherent and sustained manner. Make sure each essay is clearly written, employs proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and provides support for any assertions made. Clarity, consistency, and persuasiveness are the criteria used in my evaluation of your essays. **ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, A PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN ON HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY. ESSAY TOPICS WILL BE GIVEN ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.**

Essays should be handed to Dr. Fox on the due date at the beginning of class. For a serious reason, a student may approach Dr. Fox before the due date, and may be granted an extension at Dr. Fox's discretion. If Dr. Fox decides that documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Never submit your essays by campus mail. Never submit your essays by e-mail. You should make a photocopy of your essays. Essays that are late without permission will be penalized 5% each calendar day. **PLEASE NOTE: ESSAYS ARE RECORDED AS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED ON THE DAY THEY REACH DR. FOX'S HANDS.**

Exams

Exams are based on assigned readings, classroom lectures and classroom discussions. It is, therefore, indispensable to attend all classes.

A student who misses an exam for a serious reason may approach Dr. Fox and may be granted a make-up exam or a re-weighting of the term grade at Dr. Fox's discretion. If Dr. Fox decides that documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations, unless approved by Student Services at the University of King's.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Statement on Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.” Please refer to **Scholastic Discipline** under the Senate **Policy on Academic rights and Responsibilities** at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>.

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (link to Turnitin.com website: <http://www.turnitin.com>.)”

Statement on AI/Chat GPT

Within this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as Chat GPT, is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams and tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University

College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-supportservices/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:
https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safecampus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammarchecking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.