

# Phil 43165: Aquinas on Faith, Hope, and Charity

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[Purpose](#)----[Texts](#)----[Requirements](#)----[Syllabus](#)----[Online Handouts](#)----[Paper Assignments](#)

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**Purpose of Course:** A close examination of St. Thomas Aquinas's treatment of the three so-called 'theological virtues', viz., faith, hope, and charity. We will begin with a general overview of St. Thomas's moral theory and his general treatment of grace, the infused virtues, and the theological virtues in *Summa Theologiae* 1-2. This will include questions on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the necessity and nature of grace, and divine adoption. Then we will spend the bulk of the semester on questions from the treatises on faith, hope, and charity in *Summa Theologiae* 2-2.

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## Texts:

- *Summa Theologiae* 1, 1-2, and 2-2, qq. 1-23 (my translation). This covers everything in the course except the treatise on charity and one question from *Summa Theologiae* 3.
  - *Summa Theologiae* 2-2, qq. 24ff. and 3, q. 23 from the [New Advent Website](#). (This is for whatever I have not translated from the treatise on charity, and one question from Part 3 of the *Summa*.)
  - In addition, there are several supplementary texts available on the [online handout section](#) of the course website.
  - For those interested, the Latin text of the *Summa Theologiae* is available online at [Index Corporis Thomistici](#), which is maintained by Prof. Enrique Alarcon of the University of Navarre, Spain.
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## Requirements:

- *Class Participation* (25% of course grade). This consists of two separate things:
  - (a) You must submit to me by email, before 10:00AM on each class day, a question/comment based on the readings assigned for that day. (When we are spending more than one day on a given topic, I will give more specific instructions about which texts are relevant for a given class.) I expect the questions/comments to be well thought out and well articulated. They will

serve as the starting point for my class comments on the day in question. (I pay close attention to the quality of these questions in determining the participation component of the grade.) (15% of course grade)

(b) Active and intelligent participation in seminar discussions. In general, student initiative and signs of self-motivation will be rewarded in this course. (10% of course grade)

- *Papers.* You are required to write three 6-7 page papers, worth 75% of the course grade. These will be due on **9/30, 11/2, and 12/9 and should be submitted electronically in .doc or docx format as email attachments.** The topics will be assigned, though you have the option of writing the last paper on a topic of your own choosing, **as long as you clear the topic with me first.**

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## Syllabus:

### I. Introduction to St. Thomas's Moral Theory

- **8/26:** General account of the cardinal virtues and the infused theological virtues: *ST* 1-2, [ques. 61 \(all\)](#), and [quest. 62 \(all\)](#), and [q. 63, arts. 3 and 4](#)
- **8/31:** The necessity for grace: [ST 1-2, q. 109 \(all\)](#)
- **9/2:** The nature of grace and divine adoption (filiation): [ST 1-2, q. 110 \(all\)](#) and [ST 3, ques. 23 \(all\)](#)
- **9/7:** General account of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their relation to the beatitudes and to the fruits of the Holy Spirit: *ST* 1-2, [q. 68 \(all\)](#), [q. 69, art. 1](#), and [q. 70, art. 2](#)
- **9/9:** The New Law of Grace: *ST* 1-2, [q. 106, arts. 1 and 2](#) and [q. 108 \(all\)](#)

### II. Faith

- **9/14:** Introduction to *Summa Theologiae* 2-2 and to the object(s) of faith: [Prologue to ST 2-2 and question 1, arts. 1-5](#)
- **9/16:** More on the object of faith: [ST 2-2, ques. 1, arts. 6-10](#)
- **9/21:** The interior act of faith: [ST 2-2, ques. 2, arts. 1-5](#)
- **9/23:** More on the interior act of faith, part II: [ST 2-2, ques. 2, arts. 6-10](#)
- **9/28:** The exterior act of faith and the virtue of faith: [ST 2-2, ques. 3 \(all\)](#) and [ST 2-2, ques. 4, arts. 1-4](#)
- **9/30:** More on the virtue of faith: [ST 2-2, ques. 4, arts. 5-8](#) (paper due by email attachment -- no comment due)

- **10/5:** The subjects of faith, the cause of faith, and the effects of faith: *ST 2-2*, [ques. 5 \(all\)](#), [ques. 6 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 7 \(all\)](#)
- **10/7:** Sins against faith: unbelief in general: [ST 2-2, ques. 10 \(all\)](#)
- **10/12:** More sins against faith: heresy, apostasy, blindness of mind and dullness of sense: *ST 2-2*, [ques. 11 \(all\)](#), [ques. 12 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 15 \(all\)](#)

### III. Hope

- **10/17:** The virtue of hope: [ST 2-2, ques. 17 \(all\)](#)
- **10/26:** The subject of hope: [ST 2-2, ques. 18 \(all\)](#)
- **10/28:** Sins against hope: despair: [ST 2-2, ques. 20 \(all\)](#)
- **11/2:** Sins against hope: presumption: [ST 2-2, ques. 21 \(all\)](#) **(paper due by email attachment -- no comment due)**

### IV. Charity

- **11/4:** Charity in its own right: [ST 2-2, ques. 23 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/9:** The subject of charity: [ST 2-2, ques. 24 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/11:** The object of charity: [ST 2-2, ques. 25 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/16:** The order of charity: [ST 2-2, ques. 26 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/18:** The principal act of charity: elective love: [ST 2-2, ques. 27 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/23:** Interior acts of charity: joy, peace, and mercy: *ST 2-2*, [ques. 28 \(all\)](#), [ques. 29 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 30 \(all\)](#)
  - **11/30:** Exterior acts of charity: beneficence, almsgiving, and fraternal correction: [ques. 31 \(all\)](#), [ques. 32 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 33 \(all\)](#)
  - **12/2:** Sin opposed to charity itself (hatred), and sins opposed to joy: [ques. 34 \(all\)](#), [ques. 35 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 36 \(all\)](#)
  - **12/7:** Sins opposed to peace: discord, contention, schism, strife: [ques. 37 \(all\)](#), [ques. 38 \(all\)](#), [ques. 39 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 41 \(all\)](#)
  - **12/9:** More sins opposed to peace (war and sedition), and a sin opposed to beneficence (scandal): [ques. 40 \(all\)](#), [ques. 42 \(all\)](#), and [ques. 43 \(all\)](#) **(paper due by email attachment -- no comment due)**
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