

St Mary's College
Department of Philosophy

Course Title: Ethics

Course Number: PHI 401

Term: Fall 2025 (MWF 09:30-10:20; RM 200)

Professor: Fr Jonathan Loop

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Required Materials

Commentary on Aristotle's Ethics by St Thomas Aquinas

Course Description and Purpose Statement

This course serves as an introduction to the study of human action, particularly under the guidance of Aristotle and St Thomas Aquinas's account of the good and its importance in human choice and virtue. Students will demonstrate their efforts to grasp of these fundamental principles of action in class discussion and written compositions.

Grading Policy

Essay: 30%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

Quizzes: 5%

Class Participation: 10%

Late assignments will be accepted but will be assessed a penalty.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be present at all lectures. All reasonable and foreseen absences (e.g., marriage in family) should be discussed with the professor prior to the absence. In this case, and in the case where a student misses a lecture due to illness, the student will be responsible for any reading and will be expected to obtain notes from a classmate.

Course Schedule

Week 1: 3-5 September (Book 1)

3 September: Introduction

5 September: Lessons 1-3 (11 pages)

Week 2: 8-12 September (Book 1)

8 September: Lessons 4-8 (12 pages)

10 September: Lessons 9-12 (14 pages)

12 September: Lessons 13-16 (13 pages)

Week 3: 15-19 September (Books 1 & 2)

15 September: Book 1, Lessons 18-20; Book 2, Lesson 1 (14 pages)

17 September: Lessons 2-5 (14 pages)

19 September: Lessons 6-7, 10-11 (14 pages)

Week 4: 22-26 September (Book 3)

22 September: Lessons 1-5 (16 pages)

24 September: Lessons 7-11 (14 pages)

26 September: Lessons 12, 14-16 (16 pages)

Week 5: 29 September – 3 October (Book 3 & 4)

- 29 September: Lessons 17-20 (14 pages)
- 1 October: Lessons 21-22; Book 4, Lesson 6-7 (16 pages)
- 3 October: Lessons 8-11 (13 pages)
- Week 6: 6-10 October (Books 4 & 5)
- 6 October: Lessons 12, 14-15; Book 5, Lesson 1 (16 pages)
- 8 October: Lessons 2-4 (11 pages)
- 10 October: Lessons 9-12 (15 pages)
- Week 7: 13-17 October (Book 5 & 6)
- 13 October: Lessons 13-14, 16 (13 pages)
- 15 October: Book 6, Lessons 1-3 (14 pages)
- 17 October: Lessons 4-7 (16 pages)
- Week 8: 20-24 October (Books 6 & 7)
- 20 October: Lessons 10-11 (9 pages)
- 22 October: Book 7, Lesson 1, 4-5 (14 pages)
- 24 October: Lessons 6-8, 10 (16 pages)
- Week 9: 27-31 October
- 27 October: Review
- 29 October: **Midterm Exam**
- 31 October: **Mid-Semester Break**
- Week 10: 3-7 November (Books 7 & 8)
- 3 November: Lessons 11, 13-14 (14 pages) **(Essay Assigned)**
- 5 November: Book 8, Lessons 1-3 (13 pages)
- 7 November: Lessons 4-6 (10 pages)
- Week 11: 10-14 November (Books 8 & 9)
- 10 November: Lessons 9-11 (12 pages)
- 12 November: Lessons 12-14 (14 pages)
- 14 November: Book 9, Lessons 4-5, 8 (12 pages)

Week 12: 17-21 November (Book 9)

17 November: Lessons 9-10 (9 pages)

19 November: Lessons 11-13 (10 pages)

21 November: Lessons 14 (2 pages)

Week 13: 24-28 November (Book 10)

24 November: Book 10, Lesson 1 (3 pages) – **Essay RD due**

26 & 28 November: **Thanksgiving Break**

Week 14: 3-5 December (Book 10)

1 December: **No class**

3 December: Lessons 5-6 (8 pages)

5 December: Lessons 7-9 (11 pages)

Week 15: 8-12 December (Book 10)

8 December: **No class**

10 December: Lessons 10-13 (14 pages) – **Essay FD due**

12 December: Lessons 14-16 (11 pages) & Review

Week 16: 15-17 December

Final Examinations