

COURSE SYLLABUS

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

THE 401: GOD AND CREATION

FALL SEMESTER 2025

3 Credit Hours

PROFESSOR: Fr. Alexander Wiseman (awiseman@smac.edu)
CLASS TIMES: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 8:30am-9:20am
LOCATION: Rm. 202
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment: please email to request a meeting

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The overall course of dogmatic theology examines foundational truths about God and principal dogmas of the Catholic Faith, using the *Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas as the guide. The first semester of the course introduces dogmatic theology and the *Summa Theologiae*, and then follows the first part of the plan of the Summa, which looks at God as He is in Himself and man as God's creation. The specific topics covered are: the One God, the Triune God, and Creation. The second semester of the course continues following the order of the *Summa*, treating the Incarnation, the Redemption, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

PURPOSE:

This course is designed to give the students the following:

- A deeper understanding and a more profound love of the principal dogmas of the Catholic Faith, along with an appreciation for their unity and harmony;
- The doctrinal foundations for a solid spiritual life;
- A familiarity with the *Summa Theologiae* of St Thomas, so that they may better appreciate the unique position which St. Thomas holds among Catholic theologians;
- An inclination for further study of theology.

TEXT:

Summa Theologiae by St. Thomas Aquinas; Marietti Editori Ltd, printed in Italy (1956)
(translated text: Fathers of the English Dominican Province, Benzinger Brothers, 1913)

SUPPLEMENTAL READING AND REFERENCE:

- *The One God*, Garrigou-Lagrange, OP
- *The Trinity and God the Creator*, Garrigou-Lagrange, OP
- *Who Designed the Designer?*, Michael Augros

TESTS AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- Two tests will be given in addition to the semester final. A test missed without a legitimate excuse may not be made up and will be given a zero. A test missed with a legitimate excuse must be made up within one week. **It is the responsibility of the student** to inform the instructor that a test will be or was missed, explain the reason, and schedule the make-up test. Please note that **only for a very serious reason** will the instructor permit a make-up test – normally, a formally-excused absence or a doctor's note will be necessary.
- Written assignments to be completed outside of class as homework may be assigned occasionally throughout the semester. The purpose of this work is to help the students to a deeper understanding of the material.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at each lecture is considered mandatory. A student with five or more absences without previously-granted permission will risk a grade-reduction or loss of credit for the course at the discretion of the instructor.

INCOMPLETE WORK:

Assigned work that is not handed in will be given a "0". Assigned work that is tardy will suffer a 10% grade reduction for each day that the assignment is late.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Successful learning only occurs when the student is actively focused on the class lectures and discussions so that new material may be assimilated with previous material and so that any gaps in the student's understanding may be discovered and resolved. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions pertinent to the topic being presented and are expected to participate in class discussions.

FINAL GRADE WEIGHTING:

- Tests: 40%
- Written Assignments: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

	QUESTION	MATERIAL TO BE COVERED	COMMENTS
WEEK 1	<i>Prologus</i> Q1 (<i>review</i>)	Introduction to the <i>Summa Theologiae</i> Sacred Theology as Science	
WEEK 2	Q2: a1, 2, 3	The Existence of God	
WEEK 3	Q2: a3 (<i>continued</i>)	The Existence of God	
WEEK 4	Q3: a1 Q4: a2 Q6: a1, 4	God's Simplicity God's Perfection God's Goodness	
WEEK 5	Q18: a3 Q19: a1 Q20: a1	God's Life God's Will God's Love	Test #1
WEEK 6	Q.27: a1, 2	Introduction to the Trinity Divine Processions in God	
WEEK 7	Q.27: a3, 4, 5	Divine Processions in God	
WEEK 8	Q28: a1, 2	The Divine Relations	
WEEK 9	Q28: a3, 4	The Divine Relations	
WEEK 10	Q29: a1, 2, 4	The Divine Persons	Test #2
WEEK 11	Q35: a1 Q37: a1	Son as <i>Image</i> Holy Ghost as <i>Love</i>	
WEEK 12	Q45: a1, 2, 7	Definition of Creation The Trinity and Creation	
WEEK 13	Q47: a1, 2	Distinction, Multitude, and Inequality in Creation	
WEEK 14	Q48: a1, 2	Evil in Creation	
WEEK 15	Q49: a1, 2	"Cause" of Evil Synthesis and Review	Final Exam