

St. Mary's College

PHI 202: Philosophical Psychology Spring Semester 2026

3 Credit Hours

Professor: Father Paul Franks (pfranks@smac.edu)

Class Times: 10:30 - 11:20 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Location: Rm. 302

Office hours: by appointment – please email

Course Description: The course studies the philosophy of animate being. Questions examining the nature of life, the soul and its relation to the body, the senses, passions, intellection, and volition will be studied following the Aristotelian-Thomistic analysis.

Purpose: This course is designed to give the students the following:

- Clear ideas about human nature: to have a more precise knowledge of the distinct faculties of man (senses, appetites, passions, intellect, and will).
- An inclination for philosophical thought, i.e., asking “why?” and further familiarity with the scholastic method.
- A greater familiarity with Aristotelian-Thomistic philosophy, particularly with those philosophical notions that will be requisite for Theology (e.g., we must have a grasp on what human nature is if we are to make sense of the Incarnation).
- A bolstering of common sense and increased knowledge of the *preambula fidei* (e.g., the immateriality and incorruptibility of the soul can be known by natural reason alone).

Required Reading:

- Koren, Henry J. *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Animate Nature*. St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1955.
- Aristotle. *De Anima, or About the Soul*. Translated by Glen Coughlin. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2022.

Supplemental Reading:

- Augros, Michael. *The Immortal in You: How Human Nature Is More Than Science Can Say*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2017.
- Feser, Edward. *Aquinas: A Beginner's Guide*. London: Oneworld Publications, 2009. Chapters 1, 2, & 4.
- Gardeil, Henri-Dominique. *Introduction to the Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Volume 3: Psychology*. Translated by John A. Otto. St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co., 1956.

- Benignus, Brother. *Nature, Knowledge and God: An Introduction to Thomistic Philosophy*. New York: Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., 1947.
- Hugon, Édouard. *Philosophia Naturalis: Biologia et Psychologia; Metaphysica*. Paris: Lethielleux, 1927.
- Phillips, R. P. *Modern Thomistic Philosophy*. 2 vols. London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1934.

Grading:

- Tests: 30%
- Quizzes: 10% (drop lowest)
- Written Assignments: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

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.

Class Schedule:

- Week 1: Introduction, Living Bodies Koren pp. 1-14
- Week 2: The Soul Koren pp. 39-56
- Week 3: Vegetative Life Koren pp. 71-85
- Week 4: Sense Life: Cognition in General and External Senses Koren pp. 89-118
- Week 5: Internal Sense Cognition and Appetite in General Koren pp. 119-137
- Week 6: Sense Appetite and The Nature of the Sensitive Soul Koren pp. 142-151

February 22 – 27: SMC Retreat Week

- Week 7: The Intellect and The Process of Intellection Koren pp. 159-191
- Week 8: The Object of the Intellect and Subhuman Intelligence Koren pp. 192-203 **Midterm**
- Week 9: Existence and Nature of the Will; Freedom of the Will Koren pp. 215-221
- Week 10: The Existence and Nature of the Intellectual Soul; The Union of Soul and Body Koren pp. 246-253

March 28 – April 12: Easter Break

- Week 11: The Origin and Duration of the Human Soul Koren pp. 263-274
- Week 12: Review of Koren and Introduction to Aristotle's *De Anima* **Final Exam**
- Week 13: Aristotle's *De Anima*, Book I

Week 14: Aristotle's *De Anima*, Book II

Week 15: Aristotle's *De Anima*, Book III

Final Essay