

*St Mary's College*  
Department of Philosophy

**Course Title:** Metaphysics

**Course Number:** PHI 301: Metaphysics

**Term:** Spring 2026 (MWF 9:30-10:20; RM 120)

**Professor:** Fr Jonathan Loop

**Email:** [jloop@smac.edu](mailto:jloop@smac.edu)

**Required Materials**

*Commentary on Aristotle's Metaphysics* by St Thomas Aquinas  
Handouts

**Course Description and Purpose Statement**

This course serves as an introduction to the study of first principles of being, together with fundamental notions concerning substance and accidents, act & potency, etc. The course will end with theodicy; that is, a consideration of the First Cause, God, as accessible to human reason. Students will demonstrate their efforts to grasp of these fundamental principles of reality 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: 12-16 January (Philosophical terms)

12 January: Book 5, Overview & Review of Lesson 1

14 January: Book 5, Lesson 6

16 January: Book 5, Lesson 10

Week 2: 19-23 January (Philosophical terms)

19 January: Book 5, Lesson 15

21 January: Book 5, Lessons 16

23 January: Book 5, Lesson 17

Week 3: 26-30 January (Specificity of Metaphysics)

26 January: Book 6, Lesson 1

28 January: Book 6, Lesson 2

30 January: Book 7, Lesson 1

Week 4: 2-6 February (Substance)

2 February: Book 7, Lessons 1-2

4 February: Book 7, Lesson 2

6 February: Book 7, Lessons 2-3

Week 5: 9-13 February (Essence & Definition)

9 February: Book 7, Lesson 3

11 February: Book 7, Lessons 3-4

13 February: Book 7, Lesson 6

Week 6: 16-20 February (Becoming & Generation)

16 February: Book 7, Lessons 6-7

18 February: Book 7, Lesson 7

20 February: Book 7, Lesson 7

Week 7: 23-27 February (Principles of Material Substances)

23 February: Book 8, Lesson 1

25 February: Review

**27 February: Midterm Exam**

Week 8: 2-6 March

Retreat

Week 9: 9-13 March

9 March: Book 8, Lessons 1-2

11 March: Book 8, Lesson 2

13 March: Book 8, Lesson 2

Week 10: 16-20 March (Potency)

16 March: Book 9, Lesson 1 **Essay Assigned**

18 March: Book 9, Lessons 1-2

20 March: Book 9, Lesson 2

Week 11: 23-27 March (Act)

23 March: Book 9, Lesson 5

25 March: Book 9, Lesson 7

27 March: Book 9, Lesson 7

Week 12: 13-17 April

13 April: Book 9, Lesson 8

15 April: Book 9, Lesson 8

17 April: Book 12, Lesson 1-2

Week 13: 20-24 April

20 April: Book 12, Lesson 5

22 April: Book 12, Lesson 6

24 April: Book 12, Lesson 7

Week 14: 27 April – 1 May

27 April: Book 12, Lessons 7-8

29 April: Book 12, Lesson 8

1 May: Book 12, Lesson 11

Week 15: 4-8 May

4 May: Book 12, Lessons 11-12

6 May: Book 12, Lesson 12

8 May: **Essay Due**

Week 16: 11 May

11: May: Review

**NB: No class on Wednesday/Friday**

Week 17: 19-21 May

Final Examinations