A n exploration of Saint Thomas Aquinas’s psychology through a close reading of the Treatise on Man in his Summa theologiae, complemented by excerpts from his commentary on Aristotle’s On the Soul.

Along the way, we will consider Aquinas’s theory of knowledge and the views of his near contemporaries, with whom he is in dialogue.

TEXTS

Two translations of the Treatise on Man will be available on Blackboard: one by ‘the Fathers of the English Dominican Province’ and another by Alfred Fredoso (as revised after its printed appearance in 2010).

Should you wish to purchase a copy of the commentary on Aristotle, the best choice is:


A revision of the 1951 edition published by Yale. See www.staugustine.net.

REQUIREMENTS

For graduate students, participation and a paper on a related text by Thomas or—for those with the background—on his relation to one of his sources from the patristic or the Aristotelian commentary traditions. For undergraduates, participation, a shorter paper, a midterm, and a final.

This course fulfills the medieval requirement for graduate students.