Syllabus Mr. Aversa *A.M.D.G.*

Philosophy II – Natural Philosophy

Objectives

We will learn:

- About the relationship between modern, empiriological physics and philosophical physics (the philosophy of nature)

- About the division and method of the sciences

  - E.g.: why and how logic, math, and natural philosophy are the foundations of all further learning, such as morality and theology

Texts

All the following books are available electronically online or from the course website.

<u>Required</u>:

<u>First Semester</u>

- Gardeil, H. D., and John A. Otto. 1956. ***[Introduction to the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas: Volume II: Cosmology](#)***. St. Louis: B. Herder Book Co.

- ***Commentaria in octo libros Physicorum*** (***Commentary on Aristotle's* Physics**) by St. Thomas Aquinas

  - Books I-II translated by Richard J. Blackwell, Richard J. Spath & W. Edmund Thirlkel, Yale U.P., 1963

  - Books III-VIII translated by Fr. Pierre H. Conway, O.P., College of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio, 1958-1962

  - Bilingual HTML edition by Fr. Joseph Kenny, O.P.: http://josephkenny.joyeurs.com/CDtexts/Physics.htm

    - For Fr. Joseph Kenny, O.P.'s summary of Books I-VII, see *Nature*: http://josephkenny.joyeurs.com/CDtexts/defaultNat.htm

<u>Second Semester</u>

- Thomas, and Armand A. Maurer. 1963. ***[The division and methods of the sciences: Questions V and VI of his Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius](#)***. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

- Smith, Vincent Edward. 1958. ***[The general science of nature](#)***. Milwaukee: Bruce Pub. Co.

<u>Supplementary</u>:

- McWilliams, J. A. 1945. ***[Physics and philosophy a study of Saint Thomas' commentary on the eight books of Aristotle's Physics](#)***. Washington, D.C.: Issued by the Office of the Secretary of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Catholic University of America.

- Smith, Vincent Edward. 1950. *__Philosophical physics__*. New York: Harper.

Course Outline

Each semester we will study a text of St. Thomas introduced by a modern Thomist.

For the first semester, we will follow the outline of Fr. Gardeil's text, supplementing it with readings from Fr. McWilliam's text, in our study of St. Thomas's *Commentary on Aristotle's* Physics.

For the second semester, we will study V. E. Smith's *The General Science of Nature,* supplementing it with his *Philosophical Physics*, in our study of St. Thomas's short work, *The Division and Methods of the Sciences.*

The outline for the <u>first semester</u> is as follows:

---**First Quarter**---
I. First Semester: Cosmology
  Introduction
    A. Division of the Sciences
    B. Definition and Division of Natural Science
    C. The Methodology of Natural Science (***Phys.* I.1**)
  A. On the Principles of the Science
    1. The Principles of the Subject of the Science
      a. Errors Refuted (***Phys.* I.2-5**)
      b. The Principles: Matter, Form, Privation (***Phys.* I.6-9**)
    2. The Principles of the Science Itself
    a. Nature
      1) What Nature Is (***Phys.* II.1**)
      2) What Natural Science Studies (***Phys.* II.2**)
    b. The Causes of Mobile Being
      1) The Causes
        a) The Four Causes (***Phys.* II.3**)
        b) Chance and Fortune (***Phys.* II.4-6**)
      2) Demonstration through Causes (***Phys.* II.7**)
      3) Nature and Final Causality (***Phys.* II.8**)
      4) Necessity in Natural Science (***Phys.* II.9**)
    3. *Postscript*: The Analogy of Matter and Form
---**Second Quarter**--
  ***B. On the Subject of the Science: Motion*.**
    1. Motion per se
    a. On Motion itself (***Phys.* III.1-3**)
    b. On the Concomitants of Motion
      1) The Infinite (***Phys.* III.4-8**)
      2) Place, the void, space (***Phys.* IV.1-9**)
      3) Time (***Phys.* IV.10-14**)
    c. Kinds of Motion (***Phys.* V-VI**)
    2. Motion in relation to the mover
    a. Relationship between mover & moved (***Phys.* VII**)
    b. Need for an Unmoved Mover (***Phys.* VIII**)
    3. *Postscript*: The Aristotelian Astronomy (cf. *De coelo, De generatione, Meteorology, De mineralibus*)

Grading Policy

- Scholastic Disputations / Class Participation = 20%
- Quarter Exams = 50%
- <u>Reading Log = 30%</u>
- Total = 100%