



The Aquinas Programme

Great Books ***An Introduction to Thoughtful Reading***

Student Information Package

The material contained in this package is essential for your participation in this course. Please read all information carefully.

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St. Thomas University

The Aquinas Programme
Great Books: An Introduction to Thoughtful Reading

Course Outline, 2003-2004

1. Introduction

“Great Books: An Introduction to Thoughtful Reading” (hereafter referred to as *Great Books*) is an 18 credit-hour section of the Aquinas Programme. The Aquinas Programme is designed to offer first-year students an alternative to the typical course of study in which they take five separate courses. In Aquinas, we bring together the equivalent of three courses for a multi-disciplinary examination of some theme or issue. Among other things, the linking of these courses allows us to provide you with an intellectual home base - a small group of classmates with whom you will share the majority of your curriculum.

In this particular section of the Aquinas Programme you will examine some of life’s great questions from the point of view of three disciplines: English, Philosophy, and Political Science. Upon successful completion of *Great Books*, you will receive credit for a full year of study in English 1006; Philosophy 1013 and 1023; and Political Science 1003 and 1013. You will therefore be eligible to proceed into second year courses in all three of those departments.

2. Instructors

Great Books has three instructors:

Prof. Sara MacDonald
Department of Political Science
Office: HCH 108
Office Hours: M. 8:30-10:30 & by appt.
Phone: 452-0519
e-mail: smac@stthomasu.ca

Prof. Barry Craig
Department of Philosophy
Office: HCH 213
Office Hours: T. 8:30-10:00 & by appt.
Phone: 460-0321
e-mail: craig@stthomasu.ca

Prof. Rodger Wilkie
Department of English
Office: HIL 514-C Harriet Irving Library
Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30 & F 10:30 - 11:30.
Phone: 452-0 614 (messages)
e-mail: wilkie@stthomasu.ca

3. Course Objectives

Great Books has two general objectives.

- Primarily, we want you to begin to think about a small number of life's great themes, such as Knowledge; Good & Evil; Love and Friendship; and, Freedom? Our intention is to explore these topics with you from a variety of perspectives. We offer no pre-packaged answers. Our aim is to encourage critical thinking and thoughtful questioning.
- Secondly, we want to help you develop the academic skills you need to succeed at university, particularly reading and writing. With a name like *Great Books* you should not be surprised that in this course we expect you to do a lot of reading. We hope to develop your capacity to read thoughtfully. We also plan to work explicitly on the development of good writing skills.

You should expect to do a substantial amount of reading and writing. It is important to recognize that this programme is the equivalent of three full courses.

4 Course Format

The course meets seven times a week:

M.:	7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
T & TH:	11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
T & TH:	2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Monday evenings will normally be devoted specifically to English; however your classes on Tuesday and Thursdays are not tied to specific instructors. On any given day, one of us will lead the discussion, depending on the reading covered. Other instructors will usually be present. In addition, guest instructors will occasionally participate in class.

Great Books will involve a wide variety of teaching styles and learning techniques: lectures, tutorials, small group discussions, and one-on-one meetings with the instructors. For each class, it will be absolutely essential that students have done the assigned reading and are prepared for that class. To this end, we will often assign reading questions and writing exercises in preparation for class. Quizzes will be given to test your comprehension of the readings.

Films will sometimes be used to introduce, explore, or tie together the questions we study. They will normally be shown on Thursday evenings. You will be expected to attend film showings; however, if there is a conflict with your class or work schedule, you will be expected to watch the film on your own so that you are prepared for class discussions.

5 Required Texts

Below is a list of the required texts for the first term. All of these are available at the University Bookstore. **You must buy these particular translations and editions since we will frequently refer to passages in the texts by page number.**

- Virgil, *The Aeneid* (Penguin)
- Homer, *The Iliad* (trans. Fagles, Penguin)
- Euripides, *The Trojan Women and Other Plays* (Oxford University Press)
- Sophocles, *Three Theban Plays* (Penguin)
- Plato, *The Republic* (Hackett)
- *Beowulf*: (Broadview)
- *Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*

A number of shorter readings will be distributed in class in photocopied form.

6 Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:	Christmas Exam	20%
	6 essays	60%
	Class Assignments	10%
	Participation	10%

Please do not make any travel plans for the Christmas holidays before you have consulted the Christmas exam schedule.

All course work must be completed in order for a grade to be assigned.

The grading scheme used in this course is as follows:	95-100	A+
	90-94	A
	85-89	A-
	80-84	B+
	75-79	B
	70-74	B-
	65-69	C+
	60-64	C
	55-59	C-
	50-54	D
	0-49	F

SCHEDULE 1.0
2003-2004 Aquinas Program
“Great Books”

Date	Topic
Thu. Sept. 4	Introduction to the Aquinas Program / <i>The Cave</i>
Mon. Sept. 8	<i>Beowulf</i>
Tues. Sept. 9	<i>The Apology</i>
	<i>The Apology</i>
Thu. Sept. 11	<i>The Apology</i>
	<i>The Apology</i>
Mon. Sept 15	<i>Beowulf</i>
Tues. Sept. 16	<i>The Iliad</i>
	<i>The Iliad</i>
Thu Sept. 18	<i>The Iliad</i>
	<i>The Iliad</i>
Mon. - Sept. 22	<i>Beowulf</i> and “Pwyll Lord of Dyved”
Tues. Sept. 23	<i>The Iliad</i>
	<i>The Iliad</i>
Thu. Sept. 25	<i>The Iliad</i>
	<i>The Iliad</i>
Mon. Sep. 29	“Pwyll Lord of Dyved”
Tues. Sep. 30	<i>The Iliad</i>
	<i>The Iliad</i>
Thu. Oct. 2	<i>Trojan Women</i>
	<i>Trojan Women</i>
Mon. Oct. 6	Sidney: selected sonnets from <i>Astrophil and Stella</i>
Tues. Oct 7	<i>The Republic</i>

	<i>The Republic</i>
Thu Oct. 9	<i>The Republic</i>
	<i>The Republic</i>
Mon. Oct. 13	Shakespeare: selected sonnets
Tues. Oct. 14	<i>The Republic</i>
	<i>The Republic</i>
Thu. Oct. 16	<i>The Republic</i>
	<i>The Republic</i>
Mon. Oct. 20	Donne: “The Flea”, “A Valediction forbidding Mourning”, selected Holy Sonnets
Tues. Oct. 21	<i>The Republic</i>
	<i>The Republic</i>
Thu. Oct. 23	<i>The Clouds</i>
	<i>The Clouds</i>
Mon. Oct. 27	Jane Anger: “Her Protection for Women”; Joseph Swetnam: “The Arraignment of Lewd, Idle, Froward and Unconstant Women”
Tues. Oct. 28	<i>The Clouds</i>
	<i>The Clouds</i>
Thu. Oct. 30	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>
	<i>Oedipus Rex</i>
Mon. - Nov. 3	Swift: “A Modest Proposal”
Tues. Nov. 5	<i>The Aeneid</i>
	<i>The Aeneid</i>
Thu. Nov. 7	<i>The Aeneid</i>
	<i>The Aeneid</i>
Mon. Nov. 10	Blake: selections from <i>Songs of Innocence</i> and <i>Songs of Experience</i>
Tues. Nov. 11	<i>The Aeneid</i>
	<i>The Aeneid</i>
Thu. Nov. 13	<i>Bible</i>

	<i>Bible</i>
Mon. Nov. 17	Wordsworth: “Preface to the <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ” (!800 version), “Tintern Abbey”, a few sonnets, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”
Tues. Nov. 18	<i>Bible</i>
	<i>Bible</i>
Thurs. Nov. 20	<i>Summa Theologiae</i>
	<i>Summa Theologiae</i>
Mon. Nov. 24	Wordsworth (whatever we don’t finish on Nov. 17); Coleridge: “The Eolian Harp”, “Kubla Khan”, “Dejection: an Ode”
Tues. Nov. 25	<i>Summa Theologiae</i>
	<i>Summa Theologiae</i>
Thu. Nov. 27	Calvin - <i>Institutes</i> (selections)
	Calvin - <i>Institutes</i> (selections)
Mon. Dec. 1	Coleridge (whatever we don’t finish on Nov 24); first term review
Tues. Dec. 2	

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Guidelines on Attendance

In keeping with the Mission Statement of St. Thomas University, we believe that one of the ways to help you “experience the joy of intellectual accomplishment” is to set reasonable and fair goals. I believe that this expectation of intellectual responsibility and the application of a policy on attendance not only ensures that you have a greater chance of academic success, but also sets the standard for what the workplace demands of you.

The St. Thomas University Calendar (p. 219) states that “regular attendance is expected of all students at all classes,” and that “the responsibility for meeting this obligation rests with the student.” Further, it states that: “it is the responsibility of students to notify their instructors when they expect to be, or have been, absent from class for any justifiable reason.” Students are advised to “consult the written course outline provided by the instructor at the beginning of each course for the specific details of the attendance requirements in the course.” Finally, “it is the prerogative of the instructor to determine when a student’s scholastic standing in any course is being affected adversely by repeated absences”. In some cases “a student may be required to withdraw from a course for repeated absences” (p. 221).

Therefore, in this course the following policy on attendance will apply:

- Attendance will be taken at every class. You have a responsibility not only to yourself, but also to your classmates, to be present and to participate actively
- It is expected that any one of you may be forced to miss a class or two each year because of illness or personal problems, so you should weigh carefully any absences for other reasons.
- Extended absences for justifiable reasons should be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will notify all of your instructors.
- In cases of extended absences, you are asked to provide to us a medical certificate, if applicable, that indicates clearly the dates on which you were incapacitated.
- It is your responsibility to consult with both us and other classmates to obtain missed material, preferably before the next class. It is not our responsibility to review missed material during class time.
- Permission to make up for missed assignments and tests is at our discretion.
- Penalties for missed classes are at our discretion. The following penalties may be imposed:
 - a. you may be penalized a proportion of the total course grade for every class missed without reasonable excuse;
 - **b. you may be given a failing grade for the course, if *more than three classes***

are missed without reasonable excuse;

c. permission to take the mid-year or final examination may be withheld;

d. you may be required to withdraw from the course, following the procedure set out in Section C. 4 of the Calendar.

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Policy on Extensions for Assignments

In keeping with the same objectives as itemized at the beginning of the policy on attendance (see above), we believe in setting reasonable and fair goals for deadlines, and working closely with you to see that these goals are met. Therefore the following policy will apply to deadlines for written work:

- The granting of an extension is always at our discretion.
- An extension shall not be granted to you without a formal written request. This request must normally be submitted before, not on, the due date of the assignment. *Phone calls to our homes the night before an assignment is due will not be accepted.*
- The written request shall include a full explanation of the circumstances that have led to the request for the extension. A medical certificate should be provided in cases of extended illness. The request should indicate clearly the date(s) on which you were incapacitated or otherwise prevented from fulfilling the course requirement.
- The written request shall conclude with a new deadline, proposed by you, for handing in the assignment. You should note that the last possible date for the acceptance of the assignment is three weeks after the original deadline. After that you will receive zero for the assignment.
- Once the letter has been reviewed and accepted, you and I will sign it to acknowledge agreement to the revised contract. A copy shall be provided to you and the original shall be kept on file.
- If an assignment comes in after the deadline without a formal written request for an extension, we may impose one or a combination of the following penalties, or a penalty my own choosing:
 - a. to refuse to accept the paper;
 - b. the paper may lose one refined letter grade per late day (i.e., B- to C+);

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Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism - from the Latin *plagiarius*: one who abducts the child or slave of another, a kidnapper; a seducer; also ... **a literary thief.** (*OED*)

DEFINITION

Plagiarism is defined in the St. Thomas University *Calendar* as “quoting or paraphrasing from a source (book, article, letters, web sites, etc.) without acknowledgement” (p. 225). The *Calendar* adds, “also, submitting work completed by someone else or taking someone else’s ideas, arguments or line of thought without acknowledgement is plagiarism”. Self-plagiarism is also possible if you use your own words or ideas from one assignment in a second assignment without acknowledgement.

A plagiarist, whether intentionally or unintentionally, is a thief of the words and/or ideas of another. A plagiarist is responsible both for stealing appropriate credit from another and for misrepresenting him or herself.

CONSEQUENCES

According to the St. Thomas University *Calendar*, the range of penalties [for plagiarism] may include one or more of the following:

- (a) a redoing of the assigned work
 - (b) a failing grade in the specific examination or assignment
 - (c) a failing final grade in the course
 - (d) suspension from university
 - (e) expulsion from the university
- (p. 226)

See pages 225-226 of the 2003-2004 *Calendar* for a complete description of the disciplinary procedures which apply to academic misconduct including plagiarism.

SOLUTIONS

Whether you are using direct quotations, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas, you *must* provide appropriate citations in order to avoid plagiarism. While different disciplines have different preferred formats (for example, parenthetical citations within the body of your work, endnotes, or footnotes), I prefer the Chicago style. For details on this style see consult the *Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*.