

## Philosophical Anthropology

Michael J. Dodds, O.P.

PH 2040

Spring, 2020

Mon 12:40 PM-3:30 PM, DSPT Classroom 1

Office hours: By appt., or Mondays, 3:30-4:30 (DSPT 201)

DSPT

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**Course Description:** Through readings, class discussions and written assignments, students will learn the Aristotelian/Thomistic account of the nature of the human person, including the notions of life, the soul, the senses, intellect, will, knowledge and free choice. They will also learn how these notions apply to the contemporary philosophical issues of the unity of the human person, mind-brain questions, body-soul dualism, human conception, and biological evolution.

**Objectives:** Students will be able to explain the unity of the human person, using the philosophical notions of primary matter, substantial form, body and soul, and to show how these notions are related to mind-brain questions and the issue of body-soul dualism. They will be able to give an account of the interrelationship between sense knowledge (including the "internal senses"), intellectual knowledge, sense appetite, emotion, and will. They will be able to show how philosophy is able to address the issue of human conception (especially the instantiation of the human soul) and the issue of the origin of human beings in biological evolution.

- Feb 3 Introduction
- Feb. 10 The soul & its powers  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 1-22.  
Aquinas, *Commentary on the Soul*, Book II, lect. 1-7 (nos. 211-323) [p.163-217]  
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* Part I, Q.77, a. 1.
- Feb. 17 Presidents' Day (no class)
- Feb. 24 Knowledge and sensation  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 23-35.  
*ST I*, 78, 1-3.  
Aquinas, *Commentary on the Soul*, Book II, lect. 10-13, lect. 24; Book III, lect. 2 (nos. 350-398, 551-563, 584-598) [p.233-59, 337-343, 357-365]  
Marie George, "Thomas Aquinas Meets Nim Chimpsky"  
Temple Grandin, *Animals in Translation*, 27-67
- Mar 2 Internal senses  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 35-39.  
*ST I*, 78, a.4  
Aquinas, *Commentary on the Soul*, Book III, lect. 3-6 (nos. 599-670) [p.366-399]  
E. Schrödinger, *Mind and Matter*, p. 166-178.  
C. S. Lewis, "Meditation in a Toolshed."
- Mar. 9 Mind-brain issues  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 40-44.  
J. Searle, *Minds, Brains and Science*, p.7-56.  
J. Eccles, *The Human Psyche*, p.1-26.  
M. Dodds, "Hylomorphism and Human Wholeness."
- Mar. 16 Agent intellect and potential intellect  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 44-49  
Aquinas, *Commentary on the Soul*, Book III, lect. 7 & 10 (nos. 671-699, 728-745) [p.400-410, 425-432]  
*ST I*, 79, 1-5; Q.84, 6-7; *ST I*, 85, 1-2; Q.86, 1-4; Q.87, a.1, a.3; Q.88, a.2.  
E. Gilson, *Thomist Realism*, p.171-193.  
W. Norris Clarke, "The Creative Imagination: Unique Expression of Our Soul-Body Unity"
- Mar. 23 SPRING BREAK (no class)
- Mar 30 Appetite and will  
Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 50-54.  
*ST I*, 80, a.1; 81, a.2-3; 82, 1-4; I-II, 23, a.1-2.  
P. Gorevan, "Aquinas and Emotional Theory Today"  
F. De Waal, "Your Dog Feels as Guilty as She Looks" (optional)

- Apr. 6 Will and freedom  
 Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 54-62  
*ST I*, 83, 1; I-II, 8, 1; 9, 1-6; 10, 1-4; 13, 6.  
 J. Searle, *Minds, Brains and Science*, 57-99  
 Stephen Wang, "The Indetermination of Reason and the Role of the Will in Aquinas's Account of Human Freedom" *New Blackfriars* 90 (2009): 108-129.
- Apr. 13 Easter Monday (no class)
- Apr. 20 Psychic Wholeness  
 A. Teruue, *Psychic Wholeness and Healing*, Chapters 1-5.
- Apr. 27 Soul and self  
 Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 63-70.  
*ST I*, 75, 2, 4, 6-7; 76, 1-8; Q.77, 8; 89, 1; 90, 1-4  
 Julián Marías, "Person and I" in *Metaphysical Anthropology*, p.30-37.
- May 4 Soul and self  
 Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 70-74.  
 A. Kenny, *The Self*, p.1-33.  
 J. Donceel, "Immediate Animation"  
 N. Austriaco, "Immediate Hominization"  
*Donum Vitae*: "Introduction," (1-5); and Section I, "Respect for Human Embryos," (1-6).
- May 11 Human origins  
 Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*, 75-82.  
 Mariusz Tabaczek, "What Do God and Creatures Really Do in an Evolutionary Change? Divine Concurrence and Transformism from the Thomistic Perspective."
- May 18 FINAL WEEK OF SEMESTER (No class meeting)

ASSIGNED READINGS: Two books: Michael J. Dodds, *Philosophical Anthropology*. Second edition. (Oakland, CA: Western Dominican Province, 2013), (available at Lulu.com); John Searle, *Minds, Brains and Science* (Harvard: Harvard University Press, 1987), \$13.71, ISBN 978-0674576339; (available at Amazon.com). If you are buying from Amazon.com, you might consider ordering through the DSPT Amazon Bookstore at the DSPT website. You get all Amazon discounts, and DSPT gets a percentage of the sale.

The readings from Aquinas, *Summa Theologica (ST)* and *Commentary on Aristotle's De anima*, are at the top of the Moodle page for the class. All other readings are available in Moodle (<http://moodle.gtu.edu/>) under the individual weeks of the semester.

STRUCTURE: The structure of the class is discussion/lecture. Active participation is expected, and this presupposes a careful reading of the assigned texts.

## ASSESSMENT

WEEKLY QUESTIONS: To help focus the class in reading the texts, I will give a few questions each class which deal with the reading material for the next class meeting. You are expected to type a brief (50-70 word) response to each question. The response is not meant to be exhaustive, but only to indicate a few principles or points that would be involved in answering the question. Alternatively, you may be asked to formulate one or two questions of your own regarding a certain text. The responses will be turned in on Moodle before each class. They will not be graded as such, but their absence will have a negative effect on your grade. You can find the questions for each class session on MOODLE.

PAPERS: Students are to write EITHER a 15-20 page research paper on some aspect of the course material OR two 4-5 page essays on assigned topics *and* one 4-5 page essay on a topic of their own choosing related to the course material and other than the topics of their first two essays. Those writing the 15-20 page paper should turn in a "working title" and a one-paragraph "thesis statement" (explaining what they plan to research/argue/present in the paper) on April 6. The paper will be due on May 22. For those writing the three essays, the first will be due on April 6; the second, on April 27; and the third, on May 22.

Students will be graded on class participation and completion of written assignments (30%) and the research paper or essay papers (70%). Grades are based on the quality of student work, demonstrating both clearness of expression and mastery of essential concepts, and (for the research paper) evidence of research skills. Work is also evaluated in terms of the institutional goals of the school. For these, see page 1 of the DSPT Student Handbook [[http://www.dspt.edu/files/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.dspt.edu/files/Student_Handbook.pdf)].