GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2010
Instructor: Mark Johnson
Course #: THEO 8650
Course Title: Special Questions in Moral Theology
Course Subtitle: The Moral Universe of Thomas Aquinas: The Virtues, Gifts, Beatitudes, and Fruits

Content:

This course will be, in essence, and intensive reading of questions 55-70 of the Prima secundae of Aquinas’s Summa theologiae, with some background reading in his presentation of the habits (qq. 49-54). It will be a general reading of the role of virtue in his moral teaching, but with the unashamedly theological commitment to the “adjuncts” of virtues, namely the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Beatitudes, and the Fruits. The goal will be to arrive at an integral reading of Aquinas’s account of virtue, in order to allow for more specialized research by students concerning individual virtues (the treatment of which is especially found in the Secunda secundae).

Format:

The class will be seminar-style, with expected presentations by students on the texts assigned, done under the mentorship of the instructor; i.e., students and the instructor start the conversation, the entire class participates. The instructor will also make presentations regarding essential tools of Thomistic research.

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Class presentations on the texts, and a final seminar paper.

Language Pre-requisites:

- Medieval Latin is an advantage; other pertinent research languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish) may be needed during bibliography research.

Required Texts:

- A usable copy of the I-II of Aquinas’s Summa (can be found online, or purchased).

Optional texts:

- None—though students will of course use the Raynor Library for books and articles pertinent to their individual presentations and writing.