

PL 617 01 – THE INDIVIDUAL IN MIDDLE AGES

Fall 2005

DAY / TIME : W 3:00 – 5:00 PM
INSTRUCTOR : PROF. J.-L. SOLÈRE
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COURSE DESCRIPTION :

What makes an individual being be an individual ? In the case of man, what is personal identity made of, as far as man is not only a soul, but also a body ? These issues require an elucidation of the fundamental concepts of ontology such as form, matter, substance, and of the conditions of their application to the human person. This will also give us occasion to decode the strange questions that medieval thinkers were used to ask about “borderline cases” to tackle these problems.

Since this is an intermediate course (undergrad and grad), the evaluation will be differentiated according to the student’s level.

SYLLABUS

Week 1

Introduction: The quodlibetal questions. The problem of the identity and continuity of the individual.

Week 2

The problem of identity and continuity 2. The theological problem of the *triduum*.

Augustinus, *City of God*, Bk XXII, chap. XII

Aquinas, *Summa contra Gentiles*, Bk IV, chap. 80-81, *Summa Theologiae*, p. I^a, q.119 a.1

Week 3

Basic concepts

Aquinas, *On the Principles of Nature*, chap. 1-2

Week 4

Metaphysics. The controversy on the plurality of forms.

Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle's Metaphysics*, Bk VII, lect. 2, 7-10 ; *Commentary on Aristotle's Physics*, Bk I, lect. 11-15 ; *Summa Theologiae*, p. I^a, q.66 art.1-2 ; set of texts (photocopies).

Week 5

A particular case : the mixture.

Aquinas, *On the Mixture of the Elements* (<http://www.pvspade.com/Logic//docs/mixture.pdf>)

Week 6

The living being and the soul : *De Anima II*

Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle's De Anima* = *On Human Nature*, p.16-33 ; *Disputed Question On the Power of God*, q.3, art.9-12

Week 7

The human soul

Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, Ia p. qq.75-76 = *On Human Nature*, p.60-97 ; *Disputed Question On Spiritual Creatures*, art.1-3

Week 8

Aquinas' *Quodlibet II*

William of Auvergne, *On the Soul* (photocopies)
Aquinas, *Quodlibetal Question I*, q.4 art.1

Week 9

Aquinas' *Quodlibet III*

Disputed Questions On the Soul, art. 1, 2, 7 - 11

Week 10

Aquinas' *Quodlibet IV*

Week 11

Aquinas' adversary : Peckham

John Peckham, *Quodlibet Romanum*

Week 12

A late witness : Eckhart

Eckhart, *Quaestio parisiensis*

Week 13

Conclusions

SOURCES:

When so indicated, some of Aquinas' texts can be read in the anthology *On Human Nature*, ed. Thomas S. Hibbs, Hackett, Indianapolis, 1999

Otherwise, all Aquinas' mentioned texts are accessible online in the database "Past Masters" (*Aquinas' Collected Works*), electronic resource of the library, with the exception of *On the Mixture of the Elements*, to be downloaded from :
<http://www.pvspade.com/Logic/docs/mixture.pdf>

Other texts will be photocopied.