



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

25 Corporation Drive
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Phone: 905.791.1195

COURSE OUTLINE

Department Name:	Theology
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Course Name:	Philosophy
Course Code and Section:	HZT 4U

Course Description:	<p>The course addresses three (or more) of the main areas of philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, ethics, and social and political philosophy. Students will learn critical thinking skills, the main ideas expressed by philosophers from a variety of the world's traditions, especially Catholic philosophers, how to develop and explain their own philosophical ideas and how to apply those ideas to contemporary social issues and personal experiences. The course will also help students refine skills used in researching and investigating topics in philosophy.</p> <p>Grade 12 Philosophy is designed for university bound students and requires a fair amount of reading and personal research. Philosophy does not deal with knowledge at the level of facts; it goes beyond the facts in an attempt to explain them. It is, by its very nature, speculative. Unlike religion, which usually lays down a set of dogmas (beliefs which the followers must accept), philosophy critically examines all aspects of human thought and belief, freeing itself from any preconceived ideas or prejudices.</p> <p><u>Background:</u> The word <i>philosophy</i> comes from the Greek words <i>philein</i>, meaning to love and <i>sophia</i>, meaning wisdom. Philosophy is, therefore, the love of wisdom. In this pursuit of wisdom, philosophy seeks to answer perennial and "first order" questions such as: What it means to be a human being? What is the fundamental nature of reality? Is there a God? What are the sources and limits of our knowledge? What is good and right in our lives and societies? This is the approach found in Manuel Velasquez's text <u>Philosophy: a Text with Readings</u>. This course will guide you through the intellectual history</p>
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	<p>of civilization and let you explore the fundamental basis of modern wisdom. It will not only improve your critical thinking skills, but this course will also increase your awareness of everyday experience.</p> <p>Despite its anti-dogmatic posture, philosophy has played a key role in the development of the ideas of Catholic Christianity. The chief philosopher of Christianity in the Middle Ages in Europe was St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274). Aquinas was also a Theologian and thus expected to reflect in his teachings only the official point of view of the church. However, because he was a philosopher, he often found himself at odds with bishops and other church leaders of his day.</p> <p>For the Christian, philosophy inevitably involves channels to reality other than reliance on the intellectual arguments alone. The Christian philosopher must love wisdom and seek understanding from within the context of a life lived. To sum up, this course will seek to mesh the nature of philosophy as a discipline and the actual or lived state of the Christian philosopher.</p>
Strands/ Units:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Philosophy and Human Nature • Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion • Epistemology • Ethics • Social and Political Philosophy

Assessment and Evaluation:

Category Weightings	Weight
Knowledge/Understanding	25%
Thinking	25%
Application	20%
Communication	30%

Final Summative Assessments	Grade Distribution
Term Work	70%
Course Culminating	10%
Exam	20%