

**Thomas Aquinas**  
**Spring 2017**  
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The goal of our brief time together will be to provide a Reformed theological analysis of the methodology of Thomas Aquinas. With that in view, we will not be able to focus on the almost infinite amount of literature from Aquinas and his followers. Instead, we will focus on Thomas's relationship to the two *principia* of theology — the *principium cognoscendi*, which is the foundation of knowledge, and the *principium essendi*, which is the foundation of existence. In this way, we can begin to acquire a basic, though not thorough, assessment of Thomas's approach to his own philosophical theology.

We will attempt to follow the basic outline below:

Part I

A. The *Principium Cognoscendi* (Foundation of Knowledge)

1. Reason and Revelation
2. The Problem of Self-Evidence
3. *Praeambula Fidei*

B. Critique

1. Reason and Revelation
  - a. The "light" of reason?
2. The Problem of Self-Evidence
3. *Praeambula Fidei*

Part II.

A. *Principium Essendi* (Foundation of Existence)

1. Proofs of God's Existence
2. Who God Is

B. Critique

1. Proofs of God's Existence
2. Who God Is

C. Conclusion

## Assignment:

Your assignment will be to write a 15 to 20 page *summary* of the required readings. These summaries are not meant to cover every detail in the readings, but are meant to reflect the main and central content of the readings, as well as their implications. They will be graded, primarily, on the basis of the reader adequately to *synthesize*, rather than just repeat or quote, the material read. Synthesizing material read is a key, initial, component of good thinking and of accurate assessment.

## Required Reading:

- Aquinas, Thomas. "On Being and Essence." In *Selected Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas*, ed. Thomas Goodwin, 162. New York: Bobbs, 1965.
- . *Summa Theologica*. I.q.1, "The Nature and Extent of Sacred Doctrine" through I.q.9, "The Immutability of God."
- Davies, Brian, and Eleonore Stump. *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2012. Chapters, 1-4, 6, 9.13. **(NOTE: Do not include Chapter 1 in your "Summary.")**
- Oliphint, K. Scott. "The Irrationality of Unbelief." In *Revelation and Reason: New Essays in Reformed Apologetics*, ed. Oliphint, K. Scott, and Lane G. Tipton, 59-73. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 2007.
- . "Aquinas: A Shaky Foundation." <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/aquinas-a-shaky-foundation> Nov. 7, 2012.
- . "Bavinck's Realism, the Logos Principle and *Sola Scriptura*." *Westminster Theological Journal* 72, no. 2 (2010): 359-390.

## Recommended Reading:

- Davis, Stephen T. *God, Reason and Theistic Proofs*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.
- Garrigou-Lagrange, Reginald. *The One God: A Commentary on the First Part of Saint Thomas' Theological Summa*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.
- Geisler, Norman. *Thomas Aquinas: An Evangelical Appraisal*. Wipf & Stock Pub, 2003.
- . *Christian Apologetics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.
- Gerson, Lloyd P. *The Cambridge History of Philosophy in Late Antiquity 2 Volume Paperback Set*. Slp ed. Cambridge University Press, 2016.

- Gilson, Etienne. *Elements of Christian Philosophy*. New York: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1959.
- . *The Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*. ed. G. A. Erlington. New York: Dorset, 1971.
- Hart, Charles A. *Thomistic Metaphysics: An Inquiry Into the Act of Existing*. Prentice-Hall, 1959.
- Hughes, Christopher. *On a Complex Theory of a Simple God : An Investigation in Aquinas' Philosophical Theology*. Cornell Studies in the Philosophy of Religion, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989.
- Immink, Frederik Gerrit. *Divine Simplicity = De Eenvoud Gods*. Kampen: Kok, 1987.
- Kennedy, Daniel. "St. Thomas Aquinas." In *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912.
- Leftow, Brian. "Aquinas, Divine Simplicity and Divine Freedom." In *Metaphysics and God: Essays in Honor of Eleonore Stump*, ed. Kevin Timpe, 21-38. New York and London: Routledge, 2009.
- Levering, Matthew. *Proofs of God: Classical Arguments From Tertullian to Barth*. Baker Academic, 2016.
- MacDonald, Scott. "Theory of Knowledge." In *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*, ed. Norman Kretzmann and Eleanor Stump, 160-195. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Mayers, Ronald B. *Both/and, a Balanced Apologetic*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984.
- McInerney, Ralph. *Praeambula Fidei: Thomism and the God of the Philosophers*. The Catholic University of America Press, 2006.
- McInerney, Ralph M. *The Logic of Analogy; an Interpretation of St. Thomas*. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1961.
- Morris, Thomas V. "Problems With Divine Simplicity." In *Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology*, ed. Brian Davies, 545-548. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Muller, Richard A. *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics : The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy, Ca. 1520 to Ca. 1725: Prolegomena to Theology*. Vol. 1. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2003.
- . *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics: The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy; Volume 3: The Divine Essence and Attributes*. Baker Academic, 2003.
- Oliphint, K. Scott. *Reasons for Faith: Philosophy in the Service of Theology*. Phillipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 2006.
- . *Covenantal Apologetics: Principles and Practice in Defense of Our Faith*. Crossway, 2013.
- . "Covenant Model." In *Four Views on Christianity and Philosophy*, ed. Gould, Paul M., and Richard Brian Davis. Zondervan, 2016, 71-98.
- Ortlund, Gavin. "Divine Simplicity in Historical Perspective: Resourcing a Contemporary Discussion." *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 16, no. 4 (2014): 436-453.
- Owens, Joseph. *An Elementary Christian Metaphysics*. Milwaukee: Bruce, 1963.
- Pegis, Anton C. "Introduction." In Aquinas, Thomas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*, ed. Anton Pegis, Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1975.

- Phelan, G. B. *Saint Thomas and Analogy*. Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 1941.
- Plantinga, Alvin. "Does God Have a Nature?" In *The Analytic Theist: An Alvin Plantinga Reader*, ed. James F. Sennett, 225-257. Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.
- Stump, Eleonore. *Aquinas*. London, New York: Routledge, 2003.
- . "God's Simplicity." In *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas*, ed. Brian Davies, and Eleonore Stump, 135-146. Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Swafford, Andrew Dean. *Nature and Grace: A New Approach to Thomistic Ressourcement*. Pickwick Publications, 2014.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *Christianity in Conflict*. Vol. 2, part 2, Unpublished syllabus, n.d.
- . "Nature and Scripture." In *The Infallible Word*, 263-301. Phillipsburg, N. J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1978.
- . *Defense of the Faith*. 4th ed. ed. K. Scott Oliphint. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 2008.
- Vos, Geerhardus. "The Range of the Logos Title in the Prologue to the Fourth Gospel." In *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation : The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos*, ed. Richard B. Gaffin Jr., 59-90. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub. Co., 1980.