

# Advanced Seminar in A Selected Philosopher (PHIL 290): **Thomas Aquinas.**

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:45 p.m., Sweeney Hall 241.  
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Thomas Aquinas is widely regarded as one of the truly great philosophers of the Western tradition and he is undoubtedly one of the most influential, in no small part due to his official status as *the* model for Catholic philosophers. The depth and systematic nature of his philosophical work is astounding. In this course, we will set out to map the contours of Aquinas's worldview with special focus on his arguments meant to establish some of that worldview's core tenets, including God's existence and the soul's immortality. However, just as Aquinas's own work builds from questions of theory to questions of practice, so too our work together will build towards a firmer grasp of Aquinas's ethics. Especially with the resurgence of the Aristotelian ethical tradition, it is worth delving deeply into the ethical project of Aquinas, whom some historians of ethics see as the apex of that tradition. Regardless, all would do well in apprenticing for a time with Aquinas, who is a model of careful, insightful system-building and clear, brilliant argumentation.

*Prerequisite:* Nine units of philosophy, including PHIL 70A, PHIL 70B, or instructor consent.