

PS 299
Topics in Late Medieval, Renaissance,
and Reformation Theology and Political Philosophy

Spring 2010
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660-4308

This course will examine the transformation of theology and political philosophy in the period between Aquinas and Dante until Montaigne and Bacon. Understanding the changes in thinking about God, man, and the natural world during this period is essential to understanding modernity. While a knowledge of Christianity is essential in this enterprise, we obviously cannot cover all of the earlier Christian material in even the most rudimentary way in the course of the semester. For those of you who do not have a comprehensive knowledge of the Biblical texts, I would recommend that you read at least Genesis, Exodus, Samuel I and II, Matthew, and Romans. (I suggest the New Oxford Annotated Bible, and for those with some Greek the interlineal edition of the New Testament.) If there is sufficient interest, I will schedule times outside of class to discuss these materials. Other useful sources include the Wiki on Christianity (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity>), which has its problems but is very useful as an overview, and contains some very helpful diagrams. For a more Catholic view see <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03712a.htm>. I have included a list of terms at the end of the syllabus that students should be familiar with. Antony Levi provides a more detailed and illuminating (but still reasonably brief) account in the first part of his *Renaissance and Reformation: The Intellectual Genesis*, which is also one of the principal works on the period we will be examining. There will also be a number of authors we will be reading who will likely be unfamiliar to you. Again, I expect that you will familiarize yourself with them through the wiki, etc.

The requirements for the course for graduate students will be to take 15 minutes at the beginning of one of the classes to lead off our discussion, to write short summaries of two of the recommended books (other than my own), and a final paper of 10-15 pages if submitted by April 30, 2010 and 20-30 if submitted thereafter. Undergraduates requirements are the same except the paper is due March 31, 2010 and undergraduates must take a final.

Required Purchases:

Thomas Aquinas, *St. Thomas on Politics and Ethics*, ed. Paul E. Sigmund (Norton)
Erasmus, *The Education of A Christian Prince*, ed. Lisa Jardine (Cambridge UP)
More, *Utopia*, trans. Miller (Yale UP)
Machiavelli, *The Prince* (I prefer the University of Chicago Press edition edited by Mansfield, but don't buy a new one if you already have one.)
Montaigne, *Apology for Raymond Sebond*, trans. Screech (Penguin)
All other materials will be on Blackboard or online

Suggested Purchases:

Michael Allen Gillespie, *The Theological Origins of Modernity*
Anthony Levi, *Renaissance and Reformation: The Intellectual Genesis*

- Jan. 13 Introduction
Recommended: Levi, 21-40
18 No Class, Martin Luther King Day
20 Augustine, *The City of God*, selections (426)
25 Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics*, 1-40 (1252-1274)
Recommended: Interpretations in volume, particularly Ullmann,
Gilson, Copleston, Kristeller, Finnis
27 Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics*, 42-83
- Feb. 1 *Dante, *De monarchia*, selections (Blackboard)
3 Ockham, Selections from *Quodlibetal Questions* (1327)
Recommended: Gillespie, 19-43
Recommended: Levi, 41-70
8 *Ockham, *Address to the Friars Minor* (1334)
10 Petrarch, selections from *Life of Solitude* (1346), *Remedies* (1360)
Recommended: Gillespie 44-68
Recommended: Levi, 71-94
15 Petrarch, "On His Own Ignorance and that of Many Others"
17 Salutati, *On Tyranny* (1400)
Recommended: Gillespie, 69-92
Recommended: Levi, 95-132
22 Bruni, *The Panegyric of the City of Florence* (1403)
24 Pico, *The Dignity of Man* (1496)
- Mar. 1 No Class
3 Guicciardini, "Discourse of Logrogno" (1512)
8 No Class
10 No Class
15 Machiavelli, *The Prince* (1515)
17 Machiavelli, *The Prince*
22 Machiavelli, *The Prince*
24 *Erasmus, *The Education of a Christian Prince* (1516)
Recommended: Gillespie, 92-100
Recommended: Levi, 175-204
29 Erasmus, *The Education of a Christian Prince*
31 *More, *Utopia* (1516)
Recommended: Levi, 230-58
- Apr. 5 More, *Utopia*
7 More, *Utopia*
12 *Luther, *On Christian Liberty* (1520)
<<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.html>>
Recommended: Gillespie, 101-28
Recommended: Levi, 259-306

- 14 *Luther, *Address to the Christian Nobility* (1520)
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-new2?id=LutNobi.xml&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=1&division=div1>
- 19 Luther, *On Secular Authority* (1523)
- 21 Montaigne, *Apology* (1580)
 Recommended: Gillespie, "Montaigne's Humanistic Liberalism,"
- 26 Montaigne, *Apology*
- 28 Montaigne, *Apology*

Major Secondary Sources (I will be happy to recommend other works.)

Hans Baron, *The Crisis of the Early Italian Renaissance: Civic Humanism and Republican Liberty in an Age of Classicism and Tyranny*

Hans Blumenberg, *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age*

Marjorie O'Rourke Boyle, *Rhetoric and Reform: Erasmus' Civil Dispute with Luther*

Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium*

Sebastian De Grazia, *Machiavelli in Hell*

Amos Funkenstein, *Theology and the Scientific Imagination from the 14th-17th Centuries*

Paul Oskar Kristeller, *The Renaissance Philosophy of Man*

Mark Lilla, *The Stillborn God*

Richard C. Marius, *Martin Luther: The Christian Between Life and Death*

Heiko Oberman, *The Dawn of the Reformation: Essays in Late Medieval and Early Reformation Thought*

James O'Donnell, *Augustine: A New Biography*

J.G.A. Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment*

Leo Strauss, *Thoughts on Machiavelli*

Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self*

*Charles Trinkaus, *In Our Image and Likeness: Humanity and Divinity in Italian*

*Eric Voegelin, *The New Science of Politics; Science Politics, Gnosticism*

Here is a list of terms that you will need to be acquainted with. Some will be familiar, others not.

Albigensianism
 Anabaptism
 Arianism
 Arminianism
 Averroism
 Black Death
 Cajetan
 Calvinism
 Cathars
 Condemnation of Aristotelianism 1277
 Consubstantiation
 Corpus hermeticum

Council of Nicea
Council of Trent
Counter-reformation
Crusades
Deus absconditus
Devotio moderna
Dictatores
Diet of Worms
Epicureanism
Erastianism
Eschatology
Eucharist
Facientibus principle
Four empire theory
Franscianism
Fratricelli
Friars
Friars Minor
Gnosticism
Gothic
Great Schism
Hellenistic World
Henry of Navarre/Henry IV
Hermes Trismegistus
Holy Roman Empire
Hus
Imago dei
Indulgences
Joachim of Fiore
Kabbalah
Little Ice Age
Lorenzo the Magnificent
Manicheanism
Marsilius of Padua
Medici
Melanchthon
Mendicant orders
Müntzer
Neoplatonism
Original Sin
Peasants' Rebellion
Pelagianism
Plotinus
Poliziano
Poverty Dispute
Prelapsarian

Savonarola
Scholasticism
Semi-Pelagianism
Thomism
Transubstantiation
Trinity
Tritheism
Unitarianism
Via antiqua
Via moderna
Viator
Voluntarism, divine
Waldensians
War of the Three Henries
Wycliff