

POLS 335-01 MEDIEVAL CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THEORY

Professor William P. Collins

Hours 10- 11 TTH DBH 109

Class Meets: MWF 1145-1250

GOALS

The purpose of the course is to study the political philosophy embedded within the work the poet Dante Alighieri , and the theologian Thomas Aquinas. Both men represent a coming together of two great traditions, the Christian and the Classical and as such reflect a defining moment in the intellectual religious life of the West. The course is lecture discussion and focuses upon a close reading of representative texts taken from the work of Thomas and Dante.

POLICIES

There will be 2 -in class examinations counting 30 points each . These will be essay and short identification in format. I can not give make up examinations so please be ready to take the exam when scheduled. There will be a final examination (40 points) scheduled for December 10, 2008 at 1030AM in this room School policy requires that I do not give any exceptions to this date, unless the Dean of Arts and Sciences gives his written approval. Please plan accordingly

[1] **Attendance:** I shall take the roll. It is very important to attend class, 3 unexcused absences costs a letter grade and 5 or more results in an automatic failure

[2] **Please be on time** I shall close the door after taking roll and you will miss a class. Coming in late disturbs you colleagues and interrupts the flow of the class

[3] **You are expected to be prepared for every class** and I shall ask you questions on the assigned materials .Please attend to your studies

ADA Policy:

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request through Anne Sherman in Disability Support Services. This office is located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall, or can be reached by calling 726-4078 or 726-2105. A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations only upon notification from the Disability Support Services.

In order to provide exam accommodation, the Cumberland School of Law must receive a letter from Disability Support Services no later than thirty days prior to the end of classes. Because the process of evaluating and documenting a student's need for accommodations can be time consuming, students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services early in the semester in order to ensure the completion of all necessary paperwork by the deadline. Accommodations received after the deadline will be processed for the following semester

--

COURSE OUTLINE

PROLOGUE TO AQUINAS AND DANTE

1. The Components of Political Philosophy
2. The Journey Metaphor
3. Philosophy and Myth
4. Transforming Myth
5. Re- Casting the Story
6. On Interpretation: How to Read a Text
7. Summary Test 1

TRANSITION TO AQUINAS AND DANTE

1. Gregory the Great and Gelasius
2. Empire and Church
3. Monks and Mendicants
4. Towns Universities and the Aristotlean Revival

--

AQUINAS

1. Setting
2. God: His Existence and Providence
3. Purpose: Man's Last End
4. Virtue: Man's Acts and Will
5. Justice and Government
6. Summary Test 2

DANTE

1. Setting
2. INFERNO: The Meaning of Separation From God

3. PURGATORY: The Journey To Union With God
4. PARADISE: Justice, Being and Union With God
5. Summary Test 3

FINAL Thursday May 17, 2007 10:30