UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
Saint John Paul II Institute

JP2 5305 Faith and Reason according to John Paul II
Dr. John Corrigan
Fall 2024

Course Description:

In the first part of this course, we will distinguish philosophy and theology as well as consider their relationship to each other. We will also look at the multiple streams of thought in the academic formation of Karol Wojtyła / John Paul II and how this contributed to his unique approach and contributions to these disciplines. Wojtyła characterized his approach as a dialogue with the great debates of our time and an attempt to - put Thomas Aquinas in motion.

The second part will take us through the entire encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, exploring two overarching claims made about the relationship between faith and reason: (a) "Each contains the other, and each has its own scope for action." (§17); (b.) "Each without the other is impoverished and enfeebled." (§48). We aim to understand these claims, see current applications, and grasp the implications for the new evangelization.

Chief outcomes – at the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Define philosophy and its anthropological foundations, human as "capax universi"
2. List and elaborate the ways in which JP2 is a Thomistic philosopher
3. Define phenomenology and appreciate how it plays a role in the philosophy of JP2
4. Explain how JP2 incorporates the modern perspective of philosophy within a Thomistic framework
5. Define faith and its role in Christian life especially in John of the Cross
6. State distinctive characteristics of the theological method of the theology of JP2
7. Discuss Pope John Paul II's account of the relationship between faith and reason especially the notion of a philosophy consonant with the word of God
8. Explain how faith and reason "each contains the other"
9. Explain why faith and reason each without the other is impoverished and enfeebled
10. Understand and appreciate the achievement of the contemporary thinkers recommended by Pope John Paul II
11. Understand the principles of the "intellectual apostolate" as part of the Church's mission in the modern world and envision specific applications of it.

Course Requirements / Grading

Assignment	Value
Journal	30%
Discussion board	30%
Special projects	40%

Journal

Each week you will be required to create an entry for your own personal journal. A journal post should be done, if possible, by Thursday of the week. I will read your entries each week and give comments/feedback that allows you to build on your ideas over the semester. Please save a copy of each entry on your computer and compile them so that you may turn them in at the end of the semester.

The journal is a tool for exploration and self-discovery - explore the writings of John Paul II and select a passage, an idea or an incident that appeals to you as significant or meaningful for your life and work. After all, you enrolled in this program because of your admiration and love for Saint John Paul II. Now find items that give this admiration and love something concrete and specific for your life, your work, your personal journey. Expectations for your journals are to write at least three paragraphs as follows:

1. Identify the idea or incident, provide a reference to our readings, briefly describe it.
2. Explore its deeper theological or philosophical meaning and historical context
3. Explain how it applies to your work and journey in life.

Discussion board
After completing the week's readings, podcasts or videos, please respond to the prompt to post to the discussion.
1) Provide a 300–400-word response to the prompt expressing your informed judgment and opinion about the matter. A post on the discussion board should be made, if possible, by Thursday of the week to allow your fellow students to reply.
2) Comment on the post of at least two other students. Aim for your response to be constructive and engaging. You may disagree with each other and challenge each other; but civility must be observed at all times. Make your responses **substantive**. For example, quote the reading material, make distinctions say something valuable. Do not simply write: "good post" or "I like your post". Tell us why and give insights.

Special projects
[Project 1] Select one of the exemplars of faith and reason praised by JP2. (JP2 mentions John Henry Newman, Edith Stein, Etienne Gilson and Jacques Maritain, Antonio Rosmini. From the eastern tradition -- Soloviev, Florensky, Chaadaev and Lossky see section 74) Read a selection from this author. Prepare a report introducing this thinker. Answer these questions. Give a brief biography of the person. What are the thinker's main works? What are some of their ideas? Why do you think JP2 endorses this author? What was the strongest point you gathered from this thinker?

[Project 2] Select an article devoted to the examination of JP2 on Faith and Reason. A list will be provided but the student may also find one through research and obtain a copy to share with the class. Read and study the article. Summarize the gist of the article – identify the main points that the author is making. What passages from JP2 does the author select to analyze and what interpretation does the author propose. What was the strongest point you gathered from this article? Any criticisms of the article? You will post the article summary by the end of the semester.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected and required to conform to the highest standards of academic honesty, truthfulness, and integrity in taking exams. They are expected to hand in their own work and this alone. Plagiarism in the case of

a paper will result in a grade of zero. Plagiarism will be understood as presenting the words of another as one's own and without attributing them to their author. Close paraphrasing of another's ideas and formulations without attribution can approach plagiarism. When in doubt, students should always explicitly cite the source of the idea or formulation.

Accommodations

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University of St. Thomas will provide academic accommodations to ensure access for students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this class, must register with the Office of Access & Disability Services (ADS) and provide documentation of a disability to determine what accommodations are most appropriate. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations are not provided until a Course Accessibility Letter has been provided to the instructor. For questions regarding academic accommodations and accessibility, please contact the Office of Access and Disability Services by email at ACCESS@STTHOM.EDU, or visit the ADS website at STTHOM.EDU/ACCESS.

Essential readings for course

John Paul II. *Encyclical letter, Fides et ratio, of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II : to the bishops of the Catholic Church on the relationship between faith and reason* (Pauline Press*:* Boston 1998. (online)
John Paul II. *Master of Faith: Letter to the Carmelites on Saint John of the Cross* (online)
John Paul II talks on St Thomas Aquinas. (online)
John Paul II and V. Messori. *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. New York: Knopf, 1994.
Wojtyła, Karol. "Karol Wojtyła: Person and Work," in Grzegorz Hołub (Ed.) *Karol Wojtyła* (Kraków: Ignatianum, 2019). This is the introduction to Wojtyła and his philosophy.
Pieper, Josef. "The Philosophic Act," in *Leisure the Basis of Culture,* various editions published, notably Liberty Fund (a nice hardback), also Ignatius Press, Augustine Press.
Schmitz, Kenneth. 1993. *At the Center of the Human Drama: The Philosophical Anthropology of Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II*, *Michael J. McGivney Lectures*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press. Chapter five.
Buttiglione, Rocco. 1997. *Karol Wojtyła: the thought of the man who became Pope John Paul II*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans. Chapters 3 and 8.
International Theological Commission 2012. *Theology today: perspectives, principles, and criteria*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press. (online) or paperback.

Recommended:
John Paul II, Pope. 1981. *Faith according to St. John of the Cross*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.