

## Major Courses, Fall 2021

### HISTORY

*Religion, Culture, and the Formation of America* – Dr. FitzGerald

This course will examine the varieties of religious cultures in North America from the earliest contact between Europeans and natives through the establishment of the United States. We will consider topics such as Catholic missions, Christianity's role in America's founding, and debates on the relationship of church and state.

### LITERATURE

*Literary Criticism* – Dr. Mumbach

A study of literary criticism, beginning with Aristotle's *Poetics*, with some consideration of Nineteenth-Century criticism but more attention given to the explosion of literary criticism in the Twentieth-Century. The course has three broad considerations, to be arranged in the following order: 1) the nature of poetry, emphasizing a recognition of a sense of form (with readings of Aristotle and other critics who give most attention directly to the artifact itself; 2) the nature of the imagination, centering around Maritain's *Creative Intuition in Art and Poetry* but with attention also given to Coleridge and perhaps a few others; 3) a consideration of the four genres which Aristotle considered the most essential way of categorizing poems. (I share with some the understanding that what are often called genres nowadays Aristotle would have designated "media," an also legitimate, though less essential way of categorizing poetry).

### PHILOSOPHY

*Word and Truth (Epistemology)* – Dr. van Versendaal

How is the intellect related to that which it knows? Can the mind grasp reality adequately – that is, as a whole? Is reason in any way bounded, and, if so, what are the nature of these limits? Can the human person naturally know God? Is knowing essential to man's life - if so, in what respect? In this course we will approach the basic standpoint of ancient philosophy concerning the scope and purpose of human intelligence, dwell with the magisterial account of reason's relation to being and of the transcendental character of truth offered by St. Thomas Aquinas, explore the ways in which the bond between thinking and being was brought into question in modernity, and engage late modern efforts to overcome this dualistic juxtaposition (especially in the writings of Edmund Husserl, Edith Stein/St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martin Heidegger, and Hans Urs von Balthasar).

The transcendental of truth comes to expression in a variety of basic experiences. In this seminar, we will consider especially how *embodiment and the senses* bear on our knowing, how *feeling* offers us an interior perspective on that which we know (*empathy*), and how *dialogue* (including in the form of *education*) is the proper locus for a fully human understanding of the world.

## THEOLOGY

*Newman & Twentieth-Century Catholic Theologians* – Deacon Cooper

This course is a study of the development of Catholic doctrine through the critical reading of modern Catholic theologians. We will read St. John Henry Newman's *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, to gain an understanding of what doctrinal development is, and to gain skill in distinguishing faithful developments from those which are unhealthy. We will read works of important modern Catholic theologians, to enrich our understanding of doctrinal development, and to exercise our skill in discerning true development from corruption. We will focus on theologians of the *ressourcement* movement, to appreciate the distinctive contribution of that movement to the life of the modern Catholic Church.