

Major Courses, Spring 2023

HISTORY

Remembering the Past: The Study of History – Dr. FitzGerald

This is a course about history itself – what can we know and say about the past? what bearing does it have on the present? To answer these questions, we will examine different ways of thinking about, understanding, and writing history. This will involve a consideration of earlier historians – Herodotus, Thucydides, and Eusebius, for instance – and of more recent authors such as Christopher Dawson and John Lukacs. We will also give special consideration to exploring whether there is a distinctively Catholic understanding of history.

LITERATURE

Nineteenth-Century British Literature: The Romantics and the Victorians – Dr. Esolen

Readings will include poetry by Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, Tennyson, Hopkins, and Browning; Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, Dickens, *David Copperfield*, Eliot, Silas Marner, and selected prose from John Ruskin, John Henry Newman, and Matthew Arnold.

PHILOSOPHY

Spirit and Institution (Political Philosophy) – Dr. van Versendaal

What does it say about human nature that man should seek to govern and to be governed? Is rule and participation in a political order — city, kingdom, state — a good thing at all, or a necessary evil, or simply repugnant to happiness? What is an institution in the best sense — is such a thing worth having, and can an institution positively liberate culture?

This course pursues such questions in view of the tension between high medieval and modern political thought. We will examine the anthropology that liberalism represents, compare it to the classical tradition (as encapsulated in the thought of Thomas Aquinas), and consider several assessments of the modern state's gains and costs in such figures as Hegel, Arendt, and Voegelin. Doing so will enable us at once to consider perennial truths about man and our own situation. The heart of the course will be reflection on whether good rule serves the formation (education) of the members of a body politic into their own freedom, and under what conditions it can do so.

THEOLOGY

Patristic Exegesis – Deacon Cooper

Following the general direction of Henri de Lubac and the Ressourcement movement of the twentieth century, this course explores the Biblical exegesis of the patristic era. Key exegetical texts from influential authors of the patristic period will be read in depth. Students will be expected to understand and evaluate the methods used by the Church fathers in interpreting Scripture and to make use of those methods in their own exegetical work.