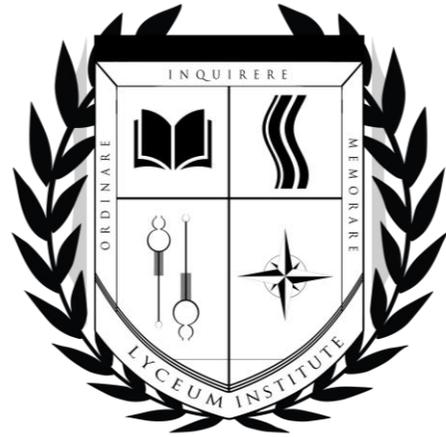


PHILOSOPHIZING IN FAITH: THE PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT OF REGINALD GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE

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SEMINAR SYLLABUS

[SUMMER-B 2022]



DESCRIPTION

Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, styled by certain parties as the "Sacred Monster of Thomism," taught at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the "Angelicum") in Rome for a long career of over fifty years. Although he is normally understood to be a conservative Roman theologian of his period, an honest assessment of his work shows that, while being integrated deeply into the Dominican *schola Thomae*, he was an active thinker, synthesizing, with a particular strength in pedagogy, Thomistic thought on many topics in theology and philosophy. This seminar will primarily consider his philosophical thought, tracing his treatment of topics pertaining to the philosophy of knowledge, metaphysics, moral philosophy, politics, with a bit of logic as well; it will end with a consideration of Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange's presentation of the boundaries between faith and reason. Throughout the seminar, emphasis will be placed on his organic connection with the Thomistic tradition as well as with the ongoing development of Thomistic thought in the many figures he influenced over the course of years of teaching and writing.



METHOD

The seminar is 8 weeks long, with one recorded lecture and one discussion session each week. Each discussion session is structured around a reading from Garrigou-Lagrange. Participants are expected to have read the assigned reading and listened to the lecture prior to the session, so that they may engage in a semi-structured discussion directed and moderated by the instructor. As this is an advanced seminar, one *cannot* participate well without a *deep engagement* with the assigned reading. Moreover, *continual discussion* will foster that participation and engagement throughout the week. Participants will be expected to partake in these discussions on a regular basis, and will be challenged to do so directly.

READING

The primary texts for this seminar will be drawn from:

Garrigou-Lagrange, Reginald. *The Order of Things: The Realism of the Principle of Finality*. Translated by Matthew K. Miner. Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Academic, 2020.

Garrigou-Lagrange, Reginald. *Philosophizing in Faith: Essays on the Beginning and End of Wisdom*. Translated by Matthew K. Miner. Providence, RI: Cluny Media, 2019.

LECTURE

Each week there will also be a 20-40+ minute audio lecture, posted to Teams at the beginning of the week. This lecture will be based upon the assigned reading, but will also stray into related topics, or may use the reading as a launching point for addressing some related issue (perhaps one more general, or perhaps one more specific). The primary (but not sole) purpose of these lectures is to help clarify some of the more difficult concepts and arguments contained within the reading, as well as to raise specific questions that should help structure and guide our discussion sessions.

There *may* be accompanying visual aids (not necessarily) in order to provide some clarity as to textual points, but one *should* be able, in most cases, to simply listen to the lecture (and perhaps consult the visual aids later). This should allow more flexibility: making the lectures suitable accompaniment for a commute, while doing chores, going for a run, etc.

DISCUSSION

The heart of the seminar is the discussion session (**Saturdays at 10am ET**): where all the thoughts emergent and encountered throughout the week—via the reading, lecture, and on-going conversations in the Teams channel—are brought into explicit conversation. This allows us to attempt a concerted effort at bringing resolution to our difficulties, and—failing such a resolution—to direct our inquiry further.

Each discussion session will begin with a brief synopsis of the week's material and a focusing on whichever aspects of that material seem most pressing. Beyond the direction provided by the instructor, participants are encouraged to bring their own concerns explicitly into view and to engage with the instructor and one another in civil debate and collective inquiry.

AUDITS OR COMPLETES

Beginning in 2022, all Lyceum Institute seminar participants will be able to either **audit** the seminar or **complete** the seminar. To **complete** the seminar, the participant **must** submit an essay of 2000+ words pertaining to the subject. This essay may be evaluated for publication in *Reality* and will be included in each Lyceum Institute member's profile, along with the mark of auditing or completing. Due date for a submission is **24 September 2022**.

SESSION SCHEDULE

July 2	<p>Introduction to the Life and Work of Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange</p> <p>Overview of the Philosophical and Theological Oeuvre of Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, drawing attention to where he stands in the <i>schola Thomae</i> and in the context of the post-<i>Aeterni Patris</i> period</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start readings for future weeks
July 9	<p>Being and Becoming</p> <p>Introduction to major lines of natural philosophy and metaphysics that repeatedly come up in the background of Garrigou-Lagrange's various writings</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Order of Things</i>, pt. 1, chs. 1–3 and pt. 2 ch. 4
July 16	<p>Some Points of Methodology</p> <p>Discussion of Garrigou-Lagrange's defense of Thomist realism, understanding of the process of definition (a topic that recurs constantly throughout his works), and some related issues of methodology as regards scientific discovery and judgment</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophizing in Faith</i>, pt. 1 and pt. 2, ch. 1; also, pt. 4, ch. 1 • <i>The Order of Things</i>, pt. 2, ch. 1
July 23	<p>Returning to Metaphysics: The Principle of Finality</p> <p>Discussion of the principle of finality, noting in particular certain important corollaries founded on the principle of reciprocal causality.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Order of Things</i>, pt. 1, chs. 4–5 and pt. 2, ch 8.
July 30	BREAK
August 6	<p>Some Philosophical Psychology</p> <p>Overview of the philosophical psychology presupposed by Garrigou-Lagrange (noting in particular his defense of the role of the <i>species expressa</i>, as well as his the repeated theme concerning objective union as knowledge of the other as other). Addressing the notion of sensation presupposed by scholastics.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophizing in Faith</i>, pt. 2, chs. 2–4 • <i>The Order of Things</i>, pt. 2, chs. 2, 3
August 13	<p>Some Philosophical Moral Matters</p> <p>Prudence, conscience, and casuistry according to Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange. The borders of theological and philosophical morality, especially as regards the stability of the moral virtues outside of the Christian life.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophizing in Faith</i>, pt. 3, chs. 1 and 2 • <i>The Order of Things</i>, pt. 2, ch. 6

<p>August 20</p>	<p>Some Political Philosophy</p> <p>Garrigou-Lagrange’s views concerning the nature of the political common good, the indirect subordination of the state to the Church, and the way that he deploys Marie-Benoît Schwalm’s distinction between individuality and personality.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophizing in Faith</i>, pt. 3, chs. 3–6
<p>August 27</p>	<p>On the Borders of Faith and Reason</p> <p>Garrigou-Lagrange on the debates over Christian philosophy. The predication of the “Divine Names” to God. Particular attention will be given to his notion of apologetics and its implications for the distinction between faith and reason (and their mutual relationship). Some more readings from essays critical of modern thought, particularly in relation to how modern philosophical themes endanger matters of Christian faith.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philosophizing in Faith</i>, pt. 4, chs. 4–5, pt. 5, chs. 1–3