

Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

Summary of road map:

Politics is study of the good life for individuals in community

Precede by Ethics

Preceded by Psychology

According to Pope John Paul II Psychology is the proper starting point for study of Politics

What else is needed?

What is Good?



Social science road map



Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

How do human beings know anything with certainty?

Difference between knowledge and opinion,
knowledge is when a person purports to have truth
and can demonstrate why

Opinion: might have a truth but do not know why
cannot be demonstrated

Knowledge is demonstrable: Tends to remove doubt.

Opinion is accompanied by doubt: the more doubt the
more the opinion: What the Greeks call: “Doxa”

Universities: Search for Truth in all Fields

Truth about Man

Truth about God

Truth about Nature and the Universe

Truth About Society and Culture, History



Princeton university



Oxford University

Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

Science or Empirical Method:

Utilitarian Application

Verification via the Senses: “Empirical Verification”

Deals purely with finite physical world

“*A posteriori* First Principles”

Self imposed Limitations to material questions

Cannot answer questions about:

Justice

Soul

God

Liberty

Does not answer moral questions: It is a

“Descriptive Science”



Louis Pasteur
French Chemist &
microbiologist
December 27, 1822 – September 28, 1895

Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

Philosophy integrated with Science until 18th Century
Aristotle, the "Father of Philosophy" is also the "Father of Biology"

Begins with empirical observation of material world to know the nature or essence of things" their "Form"
By way of the "Four Causes"

Knowledge of the 4 causes makes Philosophy
"Prescriptive"

Concerned with a things purpose, origin and end and is thus also "Normative"

It derives its Principles from observation but also from self evidence and in thus "A priori"

"Logical Demonstration" for principles to conclusions using both principles and can answer questions science cannot answer



Plato & Aristotle

Discussing the "FORMS"

Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

Theology: Answers ultimate questions that philosophy cannot

“Divine Science”: Principles come from Revelation

Rest on faith not reason or observation (although they are used)

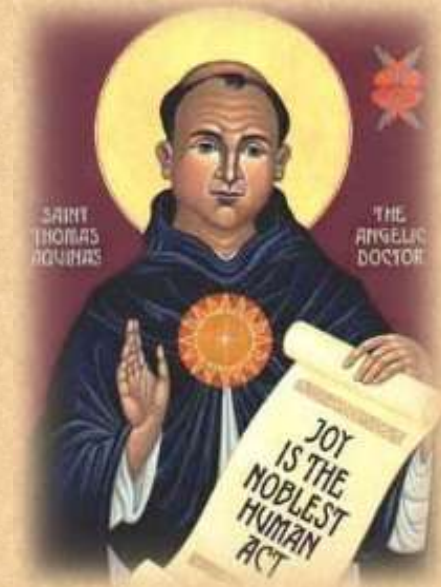
Philosophy: Man using reason to climb upward to God

Theology: God reaching downward to reveal himself to humanity

Connection between faith and reason; REASONABLY EXPECTANT MAN PREDISPOSED TO FAITH: Limited reason presupposes revelation

Aristotle's proof of God's existence is a PHILOSOPHICAL NOT A THEOLOGICAL PROOF

Theology is not myth



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

THE "ANGELIC DOCTOR"

Politics and Christian Civilization

Class Two: Philosophy, Science, Religion

William James; Faith is opinion

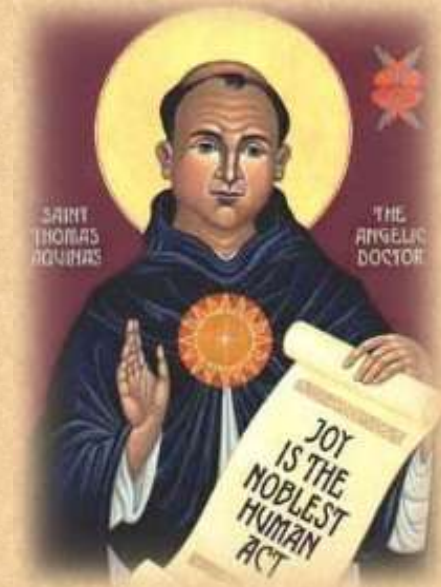
Aquinas: Faith NOT opinion or knowledge but partakes of both:
Like opinion = Act of Will
Like Knowledge = Act of Intellect

Second Part of Second Part Section

“Faith is that certainty of the mind about absent things which surpasses opinion but falls short of science“ Q 4 A 1

“The intellect assents to something, not through being sufficiently moved to this assent by its proper object, but through an act of choice, whereby it turns voluntarily to one side rather than to the other: and if this be accompanied by doubt or fear of the opposite side, there will be opinion, while, if there be certainty and no fear of the other side, there will be faith” Q 1 A 4

Theology is not myth: It is a systematic body of knowledge guided by strict rules of logic with its own vocabulary and precise terms
Myth: based on the irrational, not logical or systematic



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
THE "ANGELIC DOCTOR"