

DP 3125 GREGORY OF NYSSA'S THEOLOGY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas

Second semester 2017-18

Tuesdays, 10.30-12.15

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Gregory of Nyssa developed what can be called a mystical theology of the human person created for and called to an ever-deeper immersion in the divine life. His theology is shaped by the thought of Origen and the Trinitarian debates of the late fourth century.

Texts for the course: Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Moses*, trans. Abraham Malherbe (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1978). Gregory of Nyssa, *Ascetical Works*, trans. Virginia Woods Callahan (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 1967). Anthony Meredith, *Gregory of Nyssa* (London: Routledge, 1999).

SCHEDULE

1. Feb 13: Introduction
2. Feb 20: Doctrinal Context
Reading: Meredith, *Gregory of Nyssa*, Introduction and Epilogue, pages 1-26 and 129-139; *Life of Moses*, Preface, Foreword, and Introduction, pages xi-23; *Ascetical Works*, introductory materials, pages xi-23.
3. Feb 27: Doctrine of God
Reading: doctrinal excerpts in Meredith, pages 27-58.
4. Mar 6: Spiritual progress
Reading: *Life of Moses*
5. Mar 13: Bodily transformation
Reading: *On Virginity*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 3-78.
6. Mar 20: Social transformation
Reading: *On What It Means to Call Oneself a Christian*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 79-92.
7. Apr 10: Perfection
Reading: *On Perfection*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 93-124.
8. Apr 17 : Christian Living
Reading: *On the Christian Mode of Life*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 125-160.
9. Apr 24 : Love and Gender
Reading: *The Life of Saint Macrina*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 161-194.
10. May 8 : The Body
Reading: *On the Soul and the Resurrection*, in *Ascetical Works*, pages 195-274.
11. May 15 : The Human Person
12. May 22 : Conclusion

Exams : May 29 and June 6

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