



TOPIC

Étienne Gilson's “God and Philosophy”

LECTURER



Dr. Richard Fafara

Dr. Fafara received his M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto, Canada, where he attended Étienne Gilson's public lectures. He did graduate study under Professor Ferdinand Alquié in Paris, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology

at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, where he studied 17th century Polish philosophy. He has taught philosophy at the University of Toronto, University of New Brunswick at St. John, University of Saskatchewan, George Mason University, and Northern Virginia Community College. Currently a Senior Analyst for the Office of the Chief of Staff for Installation Management, U.S. Army, Dr. Fafara manages studies of the Army's infrastructure. For over two decades, he managed psychological and behavioral studies of Army recreation and family support programs.

OBJECTIVE

This course will examine Gilson's classic lectures on God and philosophy as found in his book by the same title. In these lectures, Gilson focused on the general themes governing the emergence of the doctrine of God as Being and Creator and its historical decline. The emergence concerns the limitations of Greek doctrine on God and the gradual rise of an existential metaphysics to overcome the limitations of Greek metaphysics. The decline pertains to the gradual emasculation of the idea of God as Creator in the history of modern philosophy and the absence of the notion of God as Being in contemporary scientism.

TIME

May 09 – 14, 2011

ECTS

2 points (30 hours lecture)