



ST. JOHN VIANNEY
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LAY DIVISION

LOVE OF WISDOM: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
With Ralph Pesce

Week	Topic
PART ONE: Defining Philosophy	
Week 1	Introduction & The Ancient Quest for Wisdom
Week 2	Pres-Socratics and Socrates
Week 3	Plato
Week 4	Aristotle (Part 1)
Week 5	Aristotle (Part 2)
Week 6	Medieval Philosophy
Week 7	St. Thomas Aquinas
Week 8	Perennial Philosophy
Week 9	Philosophy and Science
Week 10	Philosophy and Theology
PART TWO: Divisions of Philosophy	
Week 11	Knowing: Logic
Week 12	Knowing: Realism
Week 13	Knowing: Human Nature
Week 14	First Philosophy
Week 15	Existing: Being and Essence
Week 16	Existing: Substance and Accident
Week 17	Existing: Act and Potency
Week 18	Living: Happiness & Virtue
Week 19	Living: Friendship
Week 20	Living: Contemplation
PART THREE: Defending Philosophy	
Week 21	Errors of Modernity: The Modern Philosophers
Week 22	Errors of Modernity: The Scientific Revolution
Week 23	Errors of Modernity: The Enlightenment
Week 24	The Ideologues: Darwin and Freud
Week 25	The Ideologues: Hegel and Marx
Week 26	The Ideologues: Nietzsche and Sartre
Week 27	Contemporary Issues
Week 28	Contemporary Catholic: G. K. Chesterton & Edith Stein
Week 29	Contemporary Catholic: Jacques Maritain & Josef Pieper
Week 30	Contemporary Catholic: St. John Paul II & Benedict XVI

* Syllabus subject to modification by instructor.

Recommended Texts

Aristotle for Everybody | Mortimer Adler

Socrates' Children (4 volumes) | Peter Kreeft

The Philosophical Act | Josef Pieper

An Introduction to Philosophy | Jacques Maritain

Note: These are recommended as introductory texts written for an audience with little to no familiarity with philosophy (except Jacques Maritain). They provide the basic framework for the thought of Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas, who will be followed closely.