

**Reading Questions: Medieval Philosophy, Thomas Aquinas, Selections from *The Summa of Theology*, *The Summa Against the Gentiles*, and *On Kingship***

1. What *basic assumptions* does Aquinas share with Aristotle? Where do they differ?
2. What are the five arguments for the existence of God? Are any of them similar? Which do you find the most plausible or convincing, if any?
3. What is the natural role of women advanced by Aquinas? What is the picture of human procreation invoked by Aquinas? How does it compare with Augustine's?
4. In what does final perfect happiness consist according to Aquinas? Can we live or experience this happiness in earthly life? How does this compare with earlier conceptions of happiness we've discussed?
5. Why is natural reason insufficient to reach an understanding of God? What do we need specifically in order to come to knowledge of God?
6. What is eternal law? Natural law? Human law? What are the relationships between them?
7. What is a law? Are unjust laws truly laws? Are we obligated to obey them?
8. When do Christians *have the right (or permission)* to disobey unjust rulers? When *should* Christians disobey, if ever?
9. What is the proper relationship between the church and secular authorities according to Aquinas? What is his argument for this?
10. Why does Aquinas think rule by one man is better than rule by a multitude? What are his specific arguments? Is his argument consistent with Aristotle's view?
11. Why does Aquinas think it is permissible to defend one's life by killing one's attacker, even though killing is totally forbidden?