

## FRANCISCO EDUARDO PLAZA

4025 University Blvd., Houston, TX 77005 | [plazaf@stthom.edu](mailto:plazaf@stthom.edu)

### EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX <b>Ph.D in Philosophy (in progress)</b>	2013 – Present
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX <b>M.A. in Philosophy</b>	2013
Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL <b>B.S. Honors in Mathematics, Philosophy (<i>cum laude</i>)</b>	2011
Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL <b>A.A. Honors in Pre-Engineering Studies (<i>cum laude</i>)</b>	2009

### ACADEMIC AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Graduate Student Award, <i>American Maritain Association</i>	2015
Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy, <i>Palm Beach Atlantic University</i>	2011
Outstanding Graduate in Mathematics, <i>Palm Beach Atlantic University</i>	2011
Who's Who in America	2010
President's List, <i>Palm Beach Atlantic University</i>	2010
Provost's List, <i>Palm Beach Atlantic University</i>	2007, 2008, 2009

### SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

Strake Corporate Scholarship	2017-2018
Brown Aquinas Scholarship	2014-2015
Cullen Endowed Graduate Philosophy Scholarship	2014-2015, 2013-2014, 2019-2020
Bess Burkitt Crane Endowed General Scholarship	2013-2014
Jesse & Mary Jones Scholarship	2013-2014, 2011-2012, 2019-2020
C. Greg Evans Scholarship in Thomistic Studies	2013-2014, 2011-2012
Fondren Graduate Endowed Scholarship-Philosophy	2012-2013
P.C. & Josephine Del Barto Scholarship	2012-2013
Bill & Sally Slick Endowed Scholarship	2012-2013, 2019-2020

### RELATED ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA <b>Abigail Adams Institute Seminar, "Tocqueville, Murray, and the American Proposition"</b> Accepted as a student in the seminar.	2017
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA <b>Program on Integrative Knowledge and Human Flourishing Seminar "Kierkegaard and the Happy Life"</b> Accepted as a student in the seminar.	2017
Yale University, New Haven, CT <b>Elm Institute Summer Seminar, "The Search for Order in History"</b> Participated as a student in the seminar.	2015
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ <b>Witherspoon Institute Summer Seminar, "First Principles"</b> Participated as a student in the seminar.	2014

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX <b>Adjunct Professor</b>	2014 – Present
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Taught: Philosophy of the Human Person, Ethics, Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy.  
Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered all grades.

St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, TX

**Adjunct Professor**

**2014-2018**

Taught: Introducción a la Filosofía (Spring 2014, 2016 and 2018). Developed syllabus and overall course structure, and administered all grades.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

*"Political Science and Realism"*

**2019**

Published in *Reality Journal I* [Independently Published, 2019]

*"Maritain's Philosophy of Culture: A Bridge between Metaphysics and Politics"*

**2017**

Paper presented at the American Maritain Association, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Published in *In Search for Harmony*, ed. James G. Hanink [American Maritain Association, 2019]**

*"Jacques Maritain's Philosophy of Culture"*

**2016**

Paper presented at the American Catholic Philosophical Association satellite session "21<sup>st</sup> Century Thomism." San Francisco, California.

*"Subjectivity and the Prise de Conscience in Jacques Maritain"*

**2015**

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Maritain Association, San Francisco, California.

Selected for the outstanding graduate student award for the year.

**Published in *Engaging the Times*, ed. Joshua Schulz [American Maritain Association, 2017]**

*"Wojtyla's Broader Sense of Alienation"*

**2013**

Paper presented to the Society for Thomistic Personalism at the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.

POPULAR WRITINGS

*"The Roots of Human Dignity & its Modern Dissolution – Part II"*

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Reality Journal

*"The Roots of Human Dignity & its Modern Dissolution – Part I"*

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Reality Journal

*"Dostoevsky and the Cry of Rachel"*

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Reality Journal

BOOK REVIEWS

*"An Apologia for Catholic Democracy in Response to Integralism"*

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

A review of and response to Thomas Crean, OP and Alan Fimister's *Integralism: A Manual of Political Philosophy*.

Reality Journal

*"The Right Side of History"*

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

A review of Ben Shapiro's *The Right Side of History: How Reason and Moral Purpose Made the West Great*.

Reality Journal

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Reality Journal

**Editor**

**2019 – Present**

One of the founding editors of Reality Journal.

Society for 21st Century Thomism

**Co-Founder**

ACPA Satellite session promoting Aristotelian-Thomistic philosophy's relevance to contemporary issues.

January 2016 – Present

American Catholic Philosophical Association

**Graduate Assistant**

National Secretary: Mirela Oliva, Treasurer: Steven Jensen.

August 2014 – December 2015

John Paul II Forum

**Graduate Assistant**

Director: John Hittinger.

August 2014 – May 2015

Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas

**Graduate assistant**

Worked on programming board, editing for the proceedings.

2014

Varsity Tutors

**Academic Tutor**

Private tutoring in the following subjects: in the following subjects: Spanish (all levels), English, Literature, Writing, Reading, Religious Studies, History, World History, European History, Philosophy, and Programming (VB.NET).

2014

Student Success Center, Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Academic Tutor**

Tutored university students in the following subjects: Spanish (all levels), Formal Logic, and Computer Programming.

August 2009 – May 2011

Technology Services, Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Software Developer**

Helped maintain and develop the university website. Particularly the email system, as well as the "myPBA" system.

May 2009 – August 2009

Warren Library, Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Student Worker**

Worked primarily with the library archives.

2007, 2008

#### GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

Essence and Existence in St. Thomas Aquinas (taught by Dr. Thomas Osborne)  
 Introduction to Thomistic Ethics (taught by Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers)  
 God and Explanations (taught by Dr. Christopher Martin)  
 Philosophical Latin (taught by Dr. Michael Boler)  
 Thomistic Metaphysics (taught by Dr. John F. X. Knasas)  
 Wojtyla and Thomistic Personalism (taught by Dr. John Hittinger)  
 Islamic Background to Thomistic Philosophy (taught by Dr. R.E. Houser)  
 St. Thomas Aquinas and the Problem of Evil (taught by Dr. John F. X. Knasas)  
 St. Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature (taught by Dr. John Deely)  
 The Life and Works of St. Thomas Aquinas (taught by Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers)  
 Aristotle's Posterior Analytics (taught by Dr. R. E. Houser)  
 Contemporary Logic (taught by Dr. Christopher Martin)  
 Bioethics (taught by Dr. Steven Jensen)  
 Contemporary Thomism (taught by Dr. John Hittinger)  
 Modern Political Thought (taught by Dr. John Hittinger)

#### OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Attended the 2018 meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association as chair and organizer of the Society for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thomism Satellite Session **2019**

Attended the 2017 meeting of the American Maritain Association **2017**  
 New Orleans, LA

Attended the 2016 meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association as a presenter San Francisco, CA	<b>2016</b>
Attended the 2016 meeting of the American Maritain Association New York, NY	<b>2016</b>
Attended the 2015 meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association as an assistant to the secretary Boston, MA	<b>2015</b>
Attended the 2015 meeting of the American Maritain Association as a presenter San Francisco, CA	<b>2015</b>
Attended the 2014 meeting of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas as a graduate assistant Houston, TX	<b>2014</b>
Served as a justice for the Graduate Student Association at the University of St. Thomas Houston, TX	<b>2013-2014</b>
Attended the 2013 meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association as a presenter Indianapolis, IN	<b>2013</b>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Philosophy, American Politics and History, Thomistic Personalism, Culture, Contemporary Thomistic Thought, Catholic Thought, Modernity, St. Thomas Aquinas, Karol Wojtyla, Jacques Maritain, Eric Voegelin.

## AREAS OF COMPETANCE

Political Philosophy, Logic, Ethics, Culture, Metaphysics, Personalism, Philosophy of Religion, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Catholic Thought, St. Thomas Aquinas and the Thomistic Tradition, Plato, Aristotle.

## LANGUAGES

English – Native language  
Spanish – Native language  
French – Reading knowledge  
Latin – Reading knowledge

## REFERENCES

**Dr. John Hittinger**

Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[hittjp@stthom.edu](mailto:hittjp@stthom.edu); 713-889-4289

**Dr. Mirela Oliva**

Professor, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[olivam@stthom.edu](mailto:olivam@stthom.edu); 713-942-5062

**Dr. Terry Hall**

Professor and Dissertation Reader, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[thall@stthom.edu](mailto:thall@stthom.edu); 713-525-3587

**Dr. Thomas Osborne**

Professor and Chair of Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[osborntm@stthom.edu](mailto:osborntm@stthom.edu); 713-942-3483

**Dr. Steven Jensen**

Professor and Director of the Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[jensensj@stthom.edu](mailto:jensensj@stthom.edu); 713-831-7864

**Dr. Mary Catherine Sommers**

Professor and former director of the Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas  
[sommers@stthom.edu](mailto:sommers@stthom.edu); 713-942-5048