

PHIL 3060 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

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Office Hours: Wed. 4-5 or by appointment

Winter 2014
M/W/F 11:30-12:20

Course Description:

This course will serve as an introduction to the philosophical thought of the Middle Ages, that is, roughly the period between 500 AD and 1500 AD, in which the religious thought of Judaism, Islam and Christianity played a crucial role. The course will focus on several themes to show that many of the philosophical concerns of the present day were also of concern to thinkers of the period. In particular, we will look at the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of human happiness, the question of whether God exists and, if so, whether his existence can be rationally demonstrated, and the problem of free will, among others. Thinkers to be discussed will include St. Augustine (354-430), Peter Abelard (1079-1142), St. Anselm (1033-1109), al-Farabi (*ca.* 850-*ca.* 950) and, of course, St. Thomas Aquinas (1224/25-1274).

Required Texts:

- *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*. R. Bosley and M. Tweedale, eds. Broadview Press Custom Coursepack.
- Courselink/Internet Readings.

Course Requirements:

- 3 Term Quizzes (3 x 20% = 60%)¹
- 2 Short Papers (2 x 20% = 40%)²

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their **uoguelph.ca** e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a

¹ These will be straightforward, exegetical type quizzes, non-comparative in nature designed to test whether you have read the material and understood it adequately.

² These will be 1500 words and they will be comparative and analytical in nature.

teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 7, 2014. For regulations and procedures on dropping courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

Proviso on Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a very serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors.

Note that instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counseling Office:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

Policy on the Use of Electronic Devices

Please note that the use of Laptop computers and other electronic devices is NOT permitted during the lectures.

Tentative Schedule

January

- 06. Introduction to Course - Discuss Syllabus
- 08. The Scope and Nature of Medieval Philosophy; Aristotle, *On Virtue*, 69-75.
- 10. Aristotle, *On Virtue*, cont.
- 13. Augustine, *City of God*, Book 19. Courselink Reading.
- 15. Augustine, *City of God*, Book 19, cont.
- 17. Augustine, *City of God*, Book 19, cont.
- 20. Augustine, *Against Skepticism*, 28-38.
- 22. Augustine, *The Existence of Truth*, 38-47.
- 24. Boethius, *The Problem of Future Contingents*, 16-24.
- 27. Boethius, *The Problem of Future Contingents*, cont.
- 29. Boethius, *The Problem of Universals*, 25-27.
- 31. First Quiz

February

- 03. Anselm, *The Ontological Argument*, 9-10/Hand out Paper Topics.
- 05. Abelard, *Ethics*, 76-86.
- 07. Abelard, *Ethics*, cont.
- 10. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime*, Courselink Reading.
- 12. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime*, Courselink Reading.

- 14. Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise*, CourseLink Reading/First Paper Due.
- 17. Reading Week -- No Class
- 19. Reading Week -- No Class
- 21. Reading Week -- No Class
- 24. Thomas Aquinas, *Proofs for God's Existence*, 11-15.
- 26. Aquinas, *Proofs for God's Existence*, cont.
- 28. Aquinas, *The Divine Nature*, CourseLink Reading.

March

- 03. Second Quiz
- 05. Aquinas, *Human Nature*, CourseLink Reading.
- 07. Aquinas, *Human Nature*, cont.
- 10. Aquinas, *Human Nature*, cont.
- 12. Aquinas, *Happiness*, CourseLink Reading.
- 14. Aquinas, *Happiness*, cont.
- 17. Aquinas, *Happiness*, cont.
- 19. Aquinas, *Law*, CourseLink Reading.
- 21. Aquinas, *Law*, cont.
- 24. Aquinas, *Law*, cont.
- 26. John Duns Scotus, *Refutation of Skepticism*, 48-63/Hand Out Paper Topics.
- 28. John Duns Scotus, *Refutation of Skepticism*, cont.
- 31. Nicholas of Autrecourt, *Certainty and the Principle of Non-Contradiction*

April

- 02. Third Quiz
- 04. Course Wrap-Up -- Second Paper Due.

Important Dates

- Jan. 31:** First Quiz.
- Feb. 03:** Hand Out Paper Topics for First Paper.
- Feb. 11:** First Paper Due.
- Feb. 17-21:** Reading Week – No Class.
- Mar. 03:** Second Quiz.
- Mar. 07:** Last Day to Drop Class.
- Mar. 26:** Hand Out Paper Topics for Second Paper.
- Apr. 02:** Third Quiz.
- Apr. 04:** Last Day of Class -- Second Paper Due.