

## PHIL 3060 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

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Office Hours: By appointment

Winter 2018  
M/W 2:30-3:50  
Graham Hall 2310

### 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 the major monotheistic religions 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:

All readings for the course can be found on CourseLink.

### Course Requirements:

- 2 Term Quizzes (2 x 30% = 60%) <sup>1</sup>
- 1 Term Paper = 30% <sup>2</sup>
- Attendance and Participation = 10%

### 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> This will be an approximately 1500 word-essay. It will be analytical in nature, and I will give you the topic ahead of time. Please note, although the papers are due on March 12<sup>th</sup>, students can, however, have until March 19<sup>th</sup> if they are less concerned with receiving comments and more concerned with having extra time to work on the topic. In other words, papers submitted on the due date will receive a grade *and* comments; papers submitted on March 19<sup>th</sup> will receive only a grade.

## 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 teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact *as soon as possible*. 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

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day (**Friday, 9 March 2018**); two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. [The regulations and procedures for dropping courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

## 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>

## 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>

## Tentative Schedule

### January

- 08. Introduction to Course—Go over syllabus
- 10. The Scope and Nature of Medieval Philosophy; Aristotle, *On Virtue*
- 15. Aristotle, *On Virtue* (cont.)
- 17. Augustine, *The City of God*
- 22. Augustine, *The City of God*
- 24. Boethius, *The Problem of Future Contingents* (i.e. “Divine Foreknowledge”)
- 29. Anselm, *The Ontological Argument* (i.e. “Proslogion”)
- 31. Abelard, *Ethics, Or Know Thyself*

### February

- 05. Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise*
- 07. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime*
- 12. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime* (cont.)
- 14. First Quiz
- 19. Reading Week—NO CLASS
- 21. Reading Week—NO CLASS
- 26. Thomas Aquinas: Life, Works, The 13<sup>th</sup> century context/Distribute Paper Topics
- 28. Thomas Aquinas, *The Nature of Theology; Proofs for God's Existence* (i.e. “The Five Ways”)

### March

- 05. Documentary on Medieval Thought and Culture
- 07. Study Break (No class)

12. Thomas Aquinas, *Proofs for God's Existence* (cont.) (Papers Due)
14. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Happiness*
19. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Happiness* (cont.)
21. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*
26. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* (cont.)
28. Thomas Aquinas, Readings on Faith and Theology

## **April**

02. Thomas Aquinas, Theology (cont.), William of Ockham, *The Nature of Theology*
04. Second Quiz

## **Important Dates**

**Feb. 14:** First Quiz.

**Feb. 19-23:** Reading Week – No Class.

**Feb. 26:** Distribute Paper Topics in Class

**Mar. 09:** Last Day to Drop Class.

**Mar. 12:** Papers Due (with comments)

**Mar. 19:** Papers can be submitted (grade only; no comments)

**Apr. 04:** Second Quiz.