



PHIL*3060 Medieval Philosophy

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 04, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

An overview of philosophical thought of the Middle Ages, that is, roughly of the period between 500 AD and 1500 AD. The course will focus on several themes from the Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions 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 knowledge and belief, 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 generally include St. Augustine (354-430), St. Anselm (1033-1109), al-Farabi (ca. 850-ca. 950), Maimonides (1135-1204) and St. Thomas Aquinas (1224/25-1274).

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course is 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).

1.3 Timetable

LEC Tues, Thur

01:00PM - 02:20PM

MCKN, Room 231

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

Please note that there will not be a final exam for this course.

2 Instructional Support

Instructor: Professor Peter Eardley

Office: Mackinnon 333

Email: peardley@uoguelph.ca

Tel: 519.824.4120, x. 53211

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

All Readings can be found on Courselink (Readings)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. *Analyze and evaluate* major historical and/or conceptual developments in the history of philosophy.
2. *Identify and critically evaluate* the practical significance of major developments in moral philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, feminism, aesthetics, social and political philosophy, and existentialism.
3. *Read and comprehend* complex original source materials in the history and problems of

philosophy.

4. *Write* clearly and cogently on advanced problems in philosophy. 5. *Be skilled* in the use of key tools for sound justification and rational persuasion, including formal and informal logic, the gathering of empirical evidence, the discerning of implicit bias and the balanced judgment of conflicting interpretations.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

January

07. Introduction to Course

09. The Scope and Nature of Medieval Philosophy; Aristotle, *On Virtue*

14. Aristotle, *On Virtue* (cont.)

16. Augustine, *The Highest Good*

21. Augustine, *God's Existence*

23. Boethius, *The Problem of Future Contingents*

28. Boethius, *Happiness and the Good*

30. Anselm, *The Ontological Argument*

February

04. Abelard, *Ethics*

06. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime*

11. Alfarabi, *The Political Regime* (cont.)

13. First Quiz

18. Reading Week—NO CLASS

20. Reading Week—NO CLASS

25. Documentary on Medieval Thought and Culture/Discuss Paper Topic

27. Thomas Aquinas, Proofs for God's Existence

March

03. Thomas Aquinas, The Soul

05. Thomas Aquinas, The Soul (cont.)

10. Thomas Aquinas, Voluntary Action and the Will

12. Thomas Aquinas, Synderesis and Conscience

17. Thomas Aquinas, On Law

19. Thomas Aquinas, On Law (cont.)

24. Thomas Aquinas, On Happiness

26 Thomas Aquinas, On Happiness (cont.)

31. Quiz 2

April

02. Course Re-Cap

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Quiz 1 (30%)

Date: Thu, Feb 13

Quiz 2 (30%)

Date: Tue, Mar 31

Term Paper (30%)

Date: Thu, Mar 12

Please note: The essay assignment will be distributed and discussed in class on Tuesday, February 25. It will be due, however, by 5 PM on Thursday, March 12. You may submit it to me either in class, or slide it under my office door (Mackinnon 333).

Attendance and Participation (10%)

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

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

7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

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

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

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

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 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.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

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

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
