

PHIL 31002 : Medieval Philosophy

Fall 2009 MW 2:15-3:30 Bowman 219

Professor: Gina Zavota
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Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30; 3:30-5:30
W 11:30 -12:30; 3:30-4:30, and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the philosophy of the western world from the fall of Rome to the beginning of the Renaissance. In addition to reading important Christian thinkers such as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and William of Ockham, we will consider representative figures from both the Jewish and Islamic traditions. Our reading of canonical figures from these traditions will be complemented by study of some of the important "mystical" and/or "heretical" thinkers associated with them, and by an overview of major historical and cultural developments that influenced the nature of philosophical speculation during this period.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Text: *Philosophy in the Middle Ages*, ed. Hyman and Walsh (Hackett)

In addition to this anthology, brief selections from other works will be handed out in class. These additional readings are also required.

For each class meeting, you will be expected to read the designated selections and arrive prepared to discuss them. **Please bring the book to class each day.** Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, and possibly some individual and small-group work on specific textual questions.

Writing-Intensive Course Information: This course fulfills the University requirement for a Writing-Intensive Course (WIC). It has thus been designed to help you develop your writing skills. You will be given two types of writing assignment: short "micro" projects and longer "macro" projects. The micros will give you the opportunity to practice basic skills such as writing a thesis paragraph, analyzing an argument, or constructing a bibliography; they are building blocks which will help you to write the macros. Over the course of the semester, you will be required to write 6 micros and 3 macros. You will also have the opportunity to rewrite your second macro in its entirety; your final grade for the project will be the grade you receive on the rewrite. In addition to writing assignments, a portion of your grade will be based on class participation.

GRADING PRACTICES

Micro assignments will be graded on a scale of zero to ten points, macros on a scale of zero to twenty points, participation on a scale of zero to ten points.

Assignment	Points Toward Final Grade
Micro #1	5
Micro #2	5
Macro #1	20
Micro #3	5
Micro #4	5
Macro #2	20
Micro #5	5
Micro #6	5
Macro #3	20
Class Participation	10
Total	100

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Total Points	Final Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
and so on...	
67-69	D+
60-66	D
<60	F

Late or Missed Assignments: I expect all students to complete all writing assignments in a timely fashion. Students who do not think they will be able to complete an assignment on time *must* see me before the assignment is due to discuss their situation and arrange an alternate schedule for completion of the work. Otherwise, **micros which are submitted late will be penalized one point for each class that they are late, and macros will be penalized two points per class.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note that you must first verify your eligibility through Student Accessibility Services, located on the ground floor of the DeWeese Health Center (contact SAS at (330) 672-3391 or visit <http://www.registrars.kent.edu/disability/> for more information on registration procedures).

Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with University Policy 3342-3-07 in the *University Policy Register*, cheating and plagiarism are punishable by several possible sanctions, including (but not limited to) refusal to accept coursework for credit, assigning a grade of "F" or zero to an assignment, assigning a grade of "F" for the course, or the revocation of a degree. It is recommended that students familiarize themselves with this policy.

Academic Complaint Procedure: The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure for handling student grievances is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-4-16 in the *University Policy Register*. For information concerning the details of the grievance procedure, please see the departmental chairperson.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Note: Unless otherwise indicated on the assignment itself, all papers are due on the Monday of the week on which they are listed on the schedule below.

Part I: Platonism and Aristotelian Logic in Early Medieval Thought

- Week 1: 8/31 - 9/2 **Toward A Medieval Notion of the Self**
Augustine, *Confessions*, Book XI (p. 75-88)
- Week 2: 9/9 **The Soul's Desire to Know** **HOLIDAY: LABOR DAY, 9/7**
Augustine, *On the Trinity*, Book X (p. 68-74)
- Week 3: 9/14 - 9/16 **The Nature of the Good** **Micro #1 Due**
Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, III.9-12 (p. 117-127)
Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Mystical Theology* (handout)
- Week 4: 9/21 - 9/23 **Faith and Reason: The "Ontological Argument"** **Micro #2 Due**
Anselm, *Proslogion* and *Replies*, excerpts (p. 149-162)
- Week 5: 9/28 - 9/30 **The Problem of Universals**
John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, Book II, Chapter 17 (p. 167-169)
Abelard, *Glosses on Porphyry*, excerpts (p. 169-188)

Part II: Greek Philosophy in the Jewish and Islamic Traditions

- Week 6: 10/5 - 10/7 **Causes and Causality** **Macro #1 Due**
Avicenna (ibn Sina), *Healing, Metaphysics I*, Ch 6, 7 (p. 241-247)
Avicenna (ibn Sina), *Healing, Metaphysics VI*, Ch 1, 2 (p. 247-255)
- Week 7: 10/12 - 10/14 **The Sufi Reaction to Aristotelian Philosophy**
al-Gazali, *The Incoherence of the Philosophers*, excerpt (p. 283-291)
ibn Tufail, "The Experience of Total Self-Annihilation" (handout)
- Week 8: 10/19 - 10/21 **Material Intellect** **Micro #3 Due**
Averroes (ibn Rushd), *A Treatise Concerning the Substance...* (p. 317-324)
Averroes (ibn Rushd), *Long Commentary on De Anima*, excerpts (p. 324-334)
- Week 9: 10/26 - 10/28 **God's Attributes** **Micro #4 Due**
Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, Bk I, Ch 51-53, 58-60 (p. 373-390)
- The Eternity of the World**
Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, Bk II, Ch 13, 16 (p. 390-394)
- Week 10: 11/2 - 11/4 **Jewish Responses to Aristotelianism** **Macro #2 (First Version) Due**
ibn Gabirol, *The Fountain of Life*, excerpts (p. 359-367)
Hasdai Crescas, *The Light of the Lord*, Book II, Part 6, Ch 1 (p. 440-449)

Part III: Aristotle and Neoplatonic Mysticism in the Christian West

- Week 11: 11/9 **Essence and Existence** **HOLIDAY: VETERANS DAY, 11/11**
Bonaventure, *The Journey of the Mind to God*, Ch 5-7 (handout)
Aquinas, *On Being and Essence*, excerpts (p. 508-515)
- Week 12: 11/16 - 11/18 **Faith and Reason: "The Cosmological Argument" Macro #2 (Final) Due**
Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* I, Q II, Art. 1-3; Q XIII, Art.2, 5 (p. 523-531)
- The Nature of the Soul**
Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* I, Q LXXV, Art. 6; Q LXXVI, Art.2 (p. 541-546)
- Week 13: 11/23 **German Mysticism** **HOLIDAY: THANKSGIVING, 11/25**
Meister Eckhart, *Sermons 48, 52, 53*, excerpts (handout) **Micro #5 Due**
- Week 14: 11/30 - 12/2 **Faith and Reason: "The Metaphysical Argument"**
John Duns Scotus, *Sentences*, Book I, Dist. II, Q 1, 2 (p. 606-614)
- Free Will and God's Foreknowledge** **Micro #6 Due**
John Duns Scotus, *Sentences*, Bk I, Dist. XXXIX; Bk II, Dist. XXV (p. 632-643)
- Week 15: 12/7 - 12/9 **Medieval Nominalism**
William of Ockham, *Sentences*, Book I, Dist. II, Q 4, 6 (p. 662-670)
William of Ockham, *Sentences*, Book I, Dist. XXX, Q 1 (p. 679-686)

**MACRO #3 WILL BE DUE BY 5:00 PM WEDNESDAY, DEC 16 IN MY MAILBOX
IN BOWMAN 320
THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS COURSE**