

## **PHH 3200: MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY**

### **(Section 01H2, course number 26964)**

Time: MWF Period 6 (12:50 - 1:40 p.m.)  
Location: Williamson Hall 0202  
Instructor: Dr. John Palmer  
Office: 330B Griffin-Floyd Hall  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION.** Medieval philosophy, or the philosophy of Western Europe between Classical Antiquity and the Renaissance, can broadly be characterized as the period when philosophers sought to integrate philosophical speculation with the doctrines of the major religious traditions, primarily those of the Christian church, but also those of Judaism and Islam. Although medieval philosophers tended to approach philosophical problems from a religious or theological perspective, their approach remained essentially rational and thus properly philosophical. This course will focus on some of the period's major philosophical problems, organized into three major units: (I) the related problems of free will, divine foreknowledge, and future contingents; (II) the set of problems normally referred to as "the problem of universals"; and (III) problems pertaining to our knowledge of God's existence and attributes. We shall attend closely to the positions and arguments developed by some of the medieval period's major thinkers in the Latin West, including (in chronological order): Augustine, Boethius, Anselm, Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES.** Students who successfully complete this course will have acquired a basic understanding of some of the major figures in medieval philosophy and of some of the major themes they addressed. In doing so, they will develop the higher-level critical and interpretative skills and the ability to assess complex historical evidence. They will also have improved their ability to reflect on and accurately represent the ideas of major philosophers and to assess of their positions in both written and oral form. These objectives will be achieved through (i) close reading and discussion of a broad range of writings by medieval philosophers, (ii) a set of papers on assigned topics prompting students to articulate and support their own views on central issues in medieval philosophy, and (iii) a classroom presentation on a topic being discussed in the class. Each paper and presentation in the class will be evaluated according to the criteria laid out in the grading rubric wherein demonstration of competent command of the relevant material, organization and clarity, and the provision of cogent interpretations of that material supporting the major claims are central parameters of evaluation.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

*Augustine: On Free Choice of the Will.* Trans. T. Williams. Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN 0872201880.  
*William of Ockham: Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, and Future Contingents*, 2nd edn. Trans. M. M. Adams and N. Kretzmann. Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN 0915144131.  
*Five Texts on the Mediaeval Problem of Universals.* Ed. and trans. P. Spade. Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN: 0872202496.  
*Anselm: Monologion and Proslogion.* Trans. T. Williams. Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN: 0872202976.  
*Aquinas: On Faith and Reason.* Trans. S. Brown. Hackett Publishing Co. ISBN: 0872204561.

### **EVALUATION**

**(I) Three papers, each worth 25% of the course grade.** Paper topics will be posted in Canvas at the end of each of course unit. Their due dates (also indicated in the Course Schedule) are:

- Paper #1 - due Monday, October 10.
- Paper #2 - due Monday, November 14.
- Paper #3 - due no later than 12:30 p.m., Thursday, December 15

No paper will be accepted after its specified due date and time except by 24-hour prior arrangement with the instructor. Failure to turn in a hard copy of a paper by its specified due date and time will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment. Electronic paper submission is not an acceptable alternative.

(II) **Quizzes on assigned readings, cumulatively worth 15% of the course grade.**

(III) **Classroom presentation, worth 10% of the course grade.** Sets of study questions designed to help students prepare for upcoming class discussions will be posted regularly in Canvas. Students will each be asked to make one short (10-15 minute) presentation on one of these topics during the appropriate class meeting.

**GRADING AND GRADE SCALE.** Information on current UF policies regarding grade and can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

**CLASS ATTENDANCE.** Students are expected to attend class and to have read and studied assigned readings in advance. Failure to be present at the beginning of class (when attendance will be taken and quizzes administered) and/or failure to be adequately prepared to participate in class discussion will adversely affect students' ability to perform well in this class. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies (see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>). Absences count from the first class meeting. Acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) will also be excused. Absences will be excused only upon presentation of proper written documentation verifying the reason for the absence.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). Plagiarism on any assignment will result in an automatic grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University's academic honesty guidelines as "the attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student."

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### Week 1

(1) W 8/24: – Introduction to Early Medieval Philosophy.

• Recommended Reading: Steven Marrone, "Medieval Philosophy in Context" (posted in Files section of Canvas course site as "(1-2)Marrone.pdf"; see also "(1)Chronology.pdf")

(2) F 8/26 – Introduction to Later Medieval Philosophy.

### **UNIT I: FREE WILL, DIVINE FOREKNOWLEDGE, AND FUTURE CONTINGENTS**

#### Week 2

(3) M 8/29 – Assigned Reading: Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* I

(4) W 8/31 – Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* I (discussion continued)

(5) F 9/2 – Assigned Reading: Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* II

#### Week 3

9/5: LABOR DAY (no class)

(6) W 9/7 – Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* II (discussion continued)

(7) F 9/9 – Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* II (discussion continued)

#### Week 4

(8) M 9/12 – Assigned Reading: Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will* III.1-4

(9) W 9/14 – Assigned Reading: Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* V (in Canvas: Files)

(10) F 9/16 – Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy* V (discussion continued)

#### Week 5

(11) M 9/19 – Assigned Readings: Aristotle, *On Interpretation* 9 (in Canvas: Files) & William Ockham's commentary (Appendix II in Adams and Kretzmann)

(12) W 9/21 – Assigned Reading: Ockham, *Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, and Future Contingents*, Question I (pp. 34-53 in Adams and Kretzmann)

(13) F 9/23 – Ockham, Question I (discussion continued)

#### Week 6

(14) M 9/26 – Assigned Reading: Ockham, *Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, and Future Contingents*, Question II (pp. 54-70 in Adams and Kretzmann)

(15) W 9/28 – Ockham, Question II (discussion continued)

(16) F 9/30 – Assigned Reading: Ockham, *Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, and Future Contingents*, Questions III through VI (pp. 71-79 in Adams and Kretzmann)

### **Paper #1 Topics Distributed**

### **UNIT II: THE PROBLEM OF UNIVERSALS**

#### Week 7

(17) M 10/3 – Assigned Reading: Porphyry, *Isagoge* (pp. 1-19 in Spade, *Five Texts*) & Aristotle, *Categories* 1-5 (in Canvas: Files)

(18) W 10/5 Boethius, extracts from *Second Commentary on Porphyry's Isagoge* (pp. 20-25 in Spade, *Five Texts*)

10/7: HOMECOMING (no class)

#### Week 8

(19) M 10/10 – Boethius, *Second Commentary on Porphyry's Isagoge* (discussion continued)

### **Paper #1 Due**

- (20) W 10/12 – Assigned Reading: Peter Abelard, extracts from his "Glosses on Porphyry" (pp. 26-56 in Spade, *Five Texts*)  
(21) F 10/14 – Peter Abelard, extracts from his "Glosses on Porphyry" (discussion continued)

#### Week 9

- (22) M 10/17 – Peter Abelard, extracts from his "Glosses on Porphyry" (discussion continued)  
(23) W 10/19 – Assigned Reading: John Duns Scotus, Six Questions on Individuation, Q1 - Q3 (pp. 57-74 in Spade, *Five Texts*)  
(24) F 10/21 – Assigned Reading: John Duns Scotus, Six Questions on Individuation, Q4 (pp. 74-93 in Spade, *Five Texts*)

#### Week 10

- (25) M 10/24 – Assigned Reading: John Duns Scotus, Six Questions on Individuation, Q5 - Q6 (pp. 93-113 in Spade, *Five Texts*)  
(26) W 10/26 – Assigned Reading: William Ockham, Five Questions on Universals, Q4 - Q5 (pp. 114-53 in Spade, *Five Texts*)  
(27) F 10/28 – Assigned Reading: William Ockham, Five Questions on Universals, Q6 (pp. 153-190 in Spade, *Five Texts*)

#### Week 11

- (28) M 10/31 – Assigned Reading: William Ockham, Five Questions on Universals, Q7 (pp. 190-214 in Spade, *Five Texts*)  
(29) W 11/2 – Assigned Reading: William Ockham, Five Questions on Universals, Q8 (pp. 215-231 in Spade, *Five Texts*)

#### **Paper #2 Topics Distributed**

#### **UNIT III: GOD'S EXISTENCE AND ATTRIBUTES**

- (30) F 11/4 – Assigned Reading: Anselm, *Monologion* Chapters 1-14

#### Week 12

- (31) M 11/7 – Assigned Reading: Anselm, *Monologion* Chapters 15-28  
(32) W 11/9 – Assigned Reading: Anselm, *Monologion* Chapters 29-80  
11/11: VETERANS DAY (no class)

#### Week 13

- (33) M 11/14 – Assigned Reading: Anselm, *Proslogion*

#### **Paper #2 Due**

- (34) W 11/16 – Assigned Reading: Gaunilo's Reply on Behalf of the Fool & Anselm's Reply to Gaunilo. (Recommended reading: David Lewis, "Anselm and Actuality" (on Canvas: Files))  
(35) F 11/18 - Assigned Reading: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Question 2 (pp. 121-129 in *Aquinas: On Faith and Reason*)

#### Week 14

- (36) M 11/21 – Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Question 2 (discussion continued)  
11/23-26: THANKSGIVING BREAK (no class)

#### Week 15

- (37) M 11/28 – Assigned Reading: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Questions 3 and 4 (pp. 129-148 in *Aquinas: On Faith and Reason*)  
(38) W 11/30 – Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Questions 3 and 4 (discussion continued)  
(39) F 12/2 – Assigned Reading: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Questions 18-22 (pp. 148-201 in *Aquinas: On Faith and Reason*)

### Week 16

(40) M 12/5 –Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Questions 18-22 (discussion continued)

(41) W 12/7 Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Part One, Questions 18-22 (discussion continued)

### **Paper #3 Topics Distributed**

**Paper #3 due by 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15.**

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.