
Phil 3210

Medieval Philosophy

Time & Place: TR 1.20-2.35, 202 Hascall Hall

Instructor: Nate Bulthuis

E-Mail: nbulthuis@colgate.edu

Office Hours: W 9-11, or by appointment

Office: 206 Hascall Hall

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to various philosophical problems raised and addressed in medieval philosophy. The course covers a broad time period, from the fourth to the fourteenth century. Our main focus, however, will be on the twelfth through fourteenth centuries. The course focuses mainly on two broad philosophical themes in medieval philosophy: the will and the world. This course assumes you are familiar with the general substance and methods of analytic philosophy.

Readings

Four texts will be required for this course, while all other texts will be made available electronically (E):

- (FCW) Williams, Thomas (tr.) (1993). *Augustine: On Free Choice of the Will* (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (PD) Williams, Thomas (tr.) (2002). *Anselm: Three Philosophical Dialogues* (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (FT) Spade, Paul Vincent (tr.) (1994). *Five Texts on the Mediaeval Problem of Universals* (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (WM) Wolter, Allan (tr.) (1997). *Duns Scotus on the Will and Morality* (Washington, D.C.: CUA Press)

I also recommend but do not require the following reader:

- (MP) Marenbon, John (2007). *Medieval Philosophy: An Historical and Philosophical Introduction* (Routledge: New York)

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory for all course lectures. Exceptions will only be made in the case of university-approved absences.

Short Analysis Essays: This course will require a series of six “short analysis essays,” of roughly 700 words, in which you analyze a piece of writing or an argument. The five best will count towards your grade. Prompts for these will be posted to the course website.

Group Work: Each student will be required to work collaboratively with 2-3 peers during the course.

Essay: There will be two required essays in this course: one with a 2500-word limit and another with a 3500-word limit.

Grading

Group Work: 10%

Short Analysis Essays: 30%

Essay 1: 25%

Essay 2: 35%

Website

This course utilizes a website: philosophy.natebulthuis.com/medieval. It is password-protected. The password for the site is **augustine**. Please consult the website for the schedule and access to readings, for journal and essay prompts, and for any other material provided during the semester.

The Writing and Speaking Center

The Writing and Speaking Center in 208 Lathrop Hall offers assistance with essays for any course. Experienced writing consultants can help native and non-native speakers alike with a written paper's focus, development, organization, clarity, citations, and grammar. Details about all meetings will remain private. To make an appointment, see <http://www.colgate.edu/writingcenter> or call [\(315\) 228-6085](tel:3152286085).

Course Accommodations

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors, resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services) by visiting CLTR (101A Lathrop Hall) or by going to www.colgate.edu/cltr.

Students who believe that, due to a special need, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to visit Academic Support and Disability Services at 101A Lathrop Hall. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Academic Dishonesty

A word about academic dishonesty: Don't. It is immoral (it's a form of theft). It also doesn't pass the risk-reward test. It's incredibly easy for us to catch, and the penalties are severe – up to and including expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please feel free to talk to me. Consult the Academic Honor Code for a more detailed discussion of academic dishonesty.

Date	Notes	Reading	Topics
Week 1 1.24 1.26		MP (1-2) FCW: 1-28	Introduction; Foundations Introduction Augustine
Week 2 1.31 2.2		MP (3) FCW: 29-69 FCW: 70-129	Foundations Augustine Augustine
Week 3 2.7 2.9		MP (4) PD: 52-78 PD: 79-100	The Will Ethics: Anselm Ethics: Anselm
Week 4 2.14 2.16		MP (8) WM: 183-207 WM: 275-292	The Will Ethics: Scotus Ethics: Scotus
Week 5 2.21 2.23		MP (7) PD: 31-51 Disp. Questions on Truth, q. 24, aa. 1-7	The Will Free Will: Anselm Free Will: Aquinas
Week 6 2.28 3.2		ST IaIIae, qq. 8-10 WM: 136-166, 293-303	The Will Free Will: Aquinas Free Will: Scotus
Week 7 3.7 3.9		Divine Names, chs. 1-2, 4-5 Aq., Truth, qq. 21; 22, aa. 1-2	The Will Goodness: Pseudo-Denys Goodness: Aquinas
Week 9 3.21 3.23		Letters 8, 18, 21-24, 30 Scivias, Book 1, Visions 1-6	Medieval Mysticism Hadewijch Hildegard von Bingen
Week 9 3.28 3.30		MP (9) Revelations of Divine Love (Short Text) Journey of the Mind to God, chs. 3, 5-7	Medieval Mysticism Julian of Norwich Bonaventure
Week 10 4.4 4.6		PD: 1-14, 17-18 PD: 14-17, 18-30	The World Truth: Anselm Truth: Anselm
Week 11 4.11 4.13		MP (9) Disp. Questions on Truth, q. 1, aa. 1-4 Liber de Anima, V.5-6	The World Truth: Aquinas Cognition: Avicenna
Week 12 4.18 4.20		MP (5) ST 1a79, aa 1-5, 84-5; Ia84, aa. 1-3 FT: 1-25	The World Cognition: Aquinas Universals: Boethius
Week 13 4.25 4.27		MP (6) FT: 26-37 FT: 37-56	The World Universals: Abelard Universals: Abelard
Week 14 5.2 5.4		FT: 96, 101-9 FT: 171-72, 204-8	The World Universals: Scotus Universals: Ockham