

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Syllabus

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Note: This is a sample syllabus meant to illustrate how I might teach a lower-division medieval philosophy course. I haven't yet had the opportunity to teach from this syllabus.

INSTRUCTOR

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ASSIGNMENTS

Diagnostic Reading and Writing Assignment (1%), Due Meeting 2.
Reading Responses (14 x 1% each = 14%), Due Weekly (see schedule below).
Paper 1 (25%), Due Meeting 14 (draft 1), Meeting 20 (draft 2).
Paper 2 (35%), Due Meeting 29.
Final Exam (25%)
Participation Extra Credit (0–2% Bonus)

COURSE MATERIALS

There's no textbook for the course. All the readings are posted on the course website.

SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

- Meeting 1: When, Where, and What is Medieval Philosophy?

Reading: None.

Due: Nothing.

PART 1: WAYS OF KNOWING GOD

- Meeting 2: The Relationship between Religion and Philosophy

Reading: Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*, selections.
Moses Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, selections.
Al-Fārābī, *Book of Religion*, selections.

Due: Diagnostic Reading and Writing Assignment.

- Meeting 3: Natural and Revealed Theology

Reading: Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, selections.
Peter Lombard, *Sentences*, selections.
Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*, selections.

Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 1.

• Meeting 4: Reading and Writing Philosophy

Reading: Milo Crimi, "Reading and Writing Philosophy."
 Kim Johnston, "Philosophy Writing Tips."
 Douglas Portmore, "Tips on Writing a Philosophy Paper."
 Virginia Warren, "Guidelines for the Non-Sexist use of Language."

• Meeting 5: Faith Seeking Understanding

Reading: Anselm of Canterbury, *Monologion* and *Proslogion*, selections
 Al-Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error*, selections.
 Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.
 Marguerite Porete, *Mirror of Simple Souls*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 2.

• Meeting 6: The Existence of God, Part 1

Reading: Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*, selections.
 Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.

• Meeting 7: The Existence of God, Part 2

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *Pointers and Reminders*, selections.
 Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 3.

• Meeting 8: Discussion

Due: Paper 1 Outline.

PART 2: LOGIC AND LANGUAGE

• Meeting 9: What is Logic?

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *Deliverance: Logic*, selections.
 John of Salisbury, *Metalogicon*, selections.
 Lambert of Auxerre, *Logic*, selections.
 Peter of Spain, *Summaries of Logic*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 4.

• Meeting 10: Signification, Part 1

Reading: Augustine of Hippo, *On the Teacher*, selections.
 Al-Fārābī, *Book of Letters*, selections.

Peter of Spain, *Summaries of Logic*, selections.

- Meeting 11: Signification, Part 2

Reading: Walter Burley, *The Purity of the Art of Logic*, selections.
William of Ockham, *Summary of Logic*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 5.

- Meeting 12: Supposition

Reading: William of Ockham, *Summary of Logic*, selections.

- Meeting 13: Argumentation

Reading: Peter of Spain, *Summaries of Logic*, selections.
Terence Parsons, *Articulating Medieval Logic*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 6.

- Meeting 14: Discussion

Due: Paper 1 (Draft 1).

PART 3: METAPHYSICS

- Meeting 15: Categories

Reading: Boethius, *Commentary on Porphyry's Introduction*, selections.
Peter of Spain, *Summaries of Logic*, selections.
William of Ockham, *Summary of Logic*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 7.

- Meeting 16: Being, Essence, and Existence

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *The Healing: Metaphysics*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *On Being and Essence*, selections.

- Meeting 17: Matter, Form, and Substance

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *The Healing: Metaphysics*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 8.

- Meeting 18: The Problem of Universals

Reading: Walter Burley, various texts, selections.
John Duns Scotus, *Commentary on Lombard's Sentences*, selections.
William of Ockham, *Commentary on Lombard's Sentences*, selections.

- Meeting 19: Time and Modality

Reading: William of Ockham, *Summary of Logic* and *Quodlibetal Questions*, selections.
John Buridan, *Summaries of Dialectic*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 9.

- Meeting 20: Discussion

Due: Paper 1 (Final Draft).

PART 4: MIND, SELF, AND SOUL

- Meeting 21: Parts of the Soul

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *The Deliverance: Psychology*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.
William of Ockham, various texts, selections.

Due: Reading Response 10

- Meeting 22: Finding and Identifying Oneself

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *The Healing: Psychology and Pointers and Reminders*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*
John Duns Scotus, *Commentary on Lombard's Sentences*, selections.

- Meeting 23: The Fate of the Soul

Reading: Ibn Sīnā, *The Deliverance: Psychology*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.
Marguerite Porete, *Mirror of Simple Souls*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 11.

- Meeting 24: Discussion

Due: Make Up Reading Responses (if applicable).

PART 5: ETHICS AND ACTION

- Meeting 25: The Practical Syllogism

Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, selections.
Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.
Pamela Hieronymi, "The Will as Reason," selections.

Due: Reading Response 12.

- Meeting 26: Freedom and Weakness of Will, Part 1.

Reading: Augustine of Hippo, *On Freedom of Choice*, selections.
Anselm of Canterbury, *On Freedom of Choice* and *On the Fall of the Devil*, selections.

- Meeting 27: Freedom and Weakness of Will, Part 2.

Reading: Thomas Aquinas, *Summary of Theology*, selections.
John Duns Scotus, *Commentary on Lombard's Sentences*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 13.

- Meeting 28: Feminism and Social Critique

Reading: Christine Pisan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, selections.

- Meeting 29: Self-Sacrifice

Reading: Henry of Ghent, *Quodlibetal Questions*, selections.
Godfrey of Fontaines, *Quodlibetal Questions*, selections.
Peter John Olivi, *Commentary on Lombard's Sentences*, selections.
Marguerite Porete, *Mirror of Simple Souls*, selections.

Due: Reading Response 14.

- Meeting 30: Discussion

Due: Paper 2.

CONCLUSION

- Meeting 31: Looking Forward, Looking Backward: the Renaissance

Reading: Lorenzo Valla, *Dialectical Disputations*, selections.
Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, *Oration* and *Apology*, selections.