

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2010

PHIL 243 Medieval Philosophy
Classroom: Zinzendorf 103

MW4b (11:45 AM – 12:55 PM)

Instructor: Dr. Bernie Cantens
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Web Page: <http://bernierphilosophy.com/>
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 PM
THURS. 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Textbook:

Philosophy in the Middle Ages. (PMA) Edited by Arthur Hyman and James J. Walsh.
Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1973.

Course Description

An historical survey of the development of Western philosophy, including the Patristic period, St. Augustine, John Scotus Eriugena, Anselm of Canterbury, Avicenna, Bonaventure, Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham. This course is meant to introduce the student to the schools of thought of the Middle Ages, such as the Christian, the Islamic, and the Jewish traditions, and their linkage to the past (i.e. Plato and Aristotle) and future (i.e. Early Modern, Late Modern and Contemporary 20th Century Philosophy).

Relationship of course to university mission

The primary goal of Moravian College is to offer its students a quality liberal arts education. A course in Medieval Philosophy will provide students with knowledge of the history of ideas, set within a specified period of human thought (100 CE –1300 CE). This era contains a richness and variety of philosophical and theological topics unmatched by any other era of the history of thought.

Skills Component

Students that have successfully completed this course are expected to have developed the ability to write structured, organized, clear and well written essays. Students are expected to have developed their reading comprehension and their reasoning and analytical skills.

Learning Outcomes/competency

The following outcomes are expected of the students that complete this course: 1) to have a basic understand the nature of medieval thought; 2) to have a basic understanding of the different traditions and schools in the medieval Period; 3) to have firsthand knowledge of some the text authored by philosophers and theologians of the medieval period; 4) to have a basic understanding of philosophy and its different branches; 5) to have a basic understand of Christianity, theological doctrines, and the nature of faith; 6) to have a basic understanding of

metaphysical theories of some of Catholic philosophers and theologian, e.g. St. Augustine, Duns Scotus Eriugena, St. Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus and William of Ockham.

Learning Methods

Multimedia This course will combine traditional classroom lecturing with multimedia presentations. Every lecture will be supplemented with point presentations and internet information. All course materials, such as syllabus, review questions, term paper information, etc., are posted on my web site: www.bernierphilosophy.com will give the students direct access to most of the materials at their convenience.

Class Dynamic Class participation is expected of all students enrolled in this course. Questions and class discussions are encouraged as an effective vehicle to motivate the student's interest in the subject matter. If there are few questions or discussion taking place in the classroom, the professor reserves the right to randomly select individual students to answer questions or give commentary on a particular topic. Therefore, careful daily reading of the text and handouts is essential for success in this course.

Reading of the text on a daily basis is essential to be successful in this course. Students are expected to be ready for class. The successful student will have read the assigned chapters before the professor introduces it. Class participation, note taking & discussion is highly recommended. The study of philosophy does not only consist of memorization; students must also read analytically and critically. When studying difficult material, it is often necessary to read it several times before a proper understanding is achieved. Do not be disappointed if you do not understand philosophical texts on your first reading.

Grading/Measures of evaluations:

1)-1 st Reflection Paper	20%
2)- Exam 1:	20%
3)- 2 nd Reflection Paper:	30%
4)- Exam 2:	30%

A=100-93; A- =92-90; B+=89-87; B=86-84; B- = 83-80; C+=79-77; C = 76-70;
D=69-60; F=<59

Reflection Papers (50 points)

Students will complete two philosophical reflection papers on a topic *directly* related to this course and that has been part of the reading assignments and class discussions.

The paper should be approximately 5-7-pages long double-spaced and 12-Times New Roman font.

The students will be graded according to four criteria: (1) whether the introduction has a clear and explicit thesis and organized developing statements; (2) whether the paper is well organized and demonstrates a logical flow of ideas; (3) whether there are well constructed and developed

arguments and/or critical explanations of philosophical problems and solutions; and (4) whether the writing skills, such as word use, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are correct.

Exams (50 Points)

There will be two exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be composed of essays and short answers.

Exam 1: October 6, 2010

Exam 2: December 13, 2010 (Monday) 1:30 PM

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Class Participation

Attendance will be taken every class period and students will be marked down for unexcused absences. Students will lose 1 point for every unexcused absence up to a possible 5 points. Students can make up lost points in unexcused absences by actively participating in class discussions or by attending out-of-class philosophy lectures and events. Unexcused absences included only the following: (1) sickness with a doctors' note, (2) death in the family, or (3) some other extraordinary event.

Extra Credit

Students will have the opportunity to earn a total of 3 extra points to the final grade by attending a minimum of 3 philosophy club meetings. The 3 extra points will bump you up one extra grade, for instance from a B to a B+ or from a B+ to an A- etc.

PROGRAM AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug. 30	INTRODUCTION THE NATURE OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY	Introduction Early Medieval Christian Philosophy
Sept. 1	AUGUSTINE	The Teacher
Sept. 6	AUGUSTINE	The Teacher
Sept. 8	AUGUSTINE	On Free Will
Sept. 13	AUGUSTINE	On Free Will

Sept. 15	AUGUSTINE	The Confessions
Sept. 20	AUGUSTINE	The Confessions
Sept. 22	BOETHIUS	The Consolation of Philosophy
Sept. 27	BOETHIUS	The Consolation of Philosophy
Sept. 29	JOHN SCOTUS ERIUGENA 1st Reflection Paper Due	On the Division of Nature
Oct. 4	JOHN SCOTUS ERIUGENA	On the Division of Nature
Oct. 6	Midterm	
Oct. 11	Recess	
Oct. 13	ANSELM	Proslogion
Oct. 18	ANSELM	Proslogion
Oct. 18	PETER ABELARD	Ethics or Know Thyself
Oct. 20	PETER ABELARD	Ethics or Know Thyself
Oct. 25	AVICENNA	The Healing Metaphysics
Oct. 27		

Nov. 1	BONAVENTURE	Retracing the Arts to Theology or Sacred Theology the Mistress Among the Science
Nov. 3		Retracing the Arts to Theology or Sacred Theology the Mistress Among the Science
Nov. 8	THOMAS AQUINAS	On Being and Essence The Summa Theological, Part One Q. I, I, and LXXVI
Nov. 10	THOMAS AQUINAS	
Nov. 15	THOMAS AQUINAS 2nd Reflection paper Due	The Summa Theological, first part of the second part Q. I, Q. II, III, V, LXI, and LVII.
Nov. 17	THOMAS AQUINAS	
Nov. 22	DUNS SCOTUS	The Oxford Commentary on the Four Books of the Sentences
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break	
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day	
Nov. 29	DUNS SCOTUS	
Dec. 1	WILLIAM OF OCKHAM	
Dec. 6	WILLIAM OF OCKHAM	<i>Summa totius logicae</i>
Dec. 8	REVIEW Last Day of Class	

Dec. 10	FINAL EXAM: December 13, 2010 (Monday) 1:30 PM	
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PLEASE, as a courtesy to the other students in the class, turn off all phones upon entering class!