



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 303 Lec 01 – “The Medieval and Renaissance Period”

Winter Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 2-3pm in MS 319

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Wyatt
Office: SS 1214
Phone: 403-220-3166
Email: nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 3:30-4:30pm

Text

- Bosley, R. N. and M. Tweedale. 2006. *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*. 2nd Edition. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press.
- Additional readings will be made available on the Blackboard site for the class.

Description

This course is a survey of the central philosophical concerns of some leading philosophers in the Christian, Islamic and Jewish traditions from the 4th century to the end of the 16th century. As we will not be able to explore the views of any individual philosopher in any depth, the focus will be on a number of central issues that were the subject of considerable discussion throughout the medieval period.

We will begin with ethics and discussion of one of the central issues for medieval philosophers—the nature of sin. Our second topic is the relationship between the mind and the body: what are minds, and are they different in kind from bodies? We shall then turn to philosophy of religion, and the question of whether God’s existence can be proven. Our fourth and final topic will be the nature of human knowledge and the rise of skepticism in the late medieval and early renaissance period.

The course serves as both an introduction to philosophy and a survey of medieval philosophy. The emphasis of the course will be on understanding the issues and arguments that concerned the medievals, though many of those issues continue to interest contemporary philosophers as well. As in any philosophy course, students will be encouraged to develop skills in critical and systematic thinking and argument analysis in addition to knowledge of the texts studied.

A reading schedule will be posted on the course website.

Evaluation

There will be 5 short writing assignments and a take home final exam.

There will be NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment 1	Monday Jan 23 rd
Assignment 2	Monday Feb 6 th
Assignment 3	Monday Feb 27 th
Assignment 4	Monday March 12 th
Assignment 5	Monday March 26 th

Take Home Final Distributed Friday April 13th, Due Monday April 16th.

Grading

- *Ceteris paribus*, the assignments will be collectively worth 60% of the grade, and the take home final exam will be worth 40% of the grade. However, students must receive a passing grade on the exam to pass the course.

On each assignment and exam question you will receive a letter grade reflecting the level of mastery of the material shown by the work you submit. According to the Calendar, letter grades are defined as follows:

A	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
B	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
C	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
D	Minimal pass—marginal performance.
F	Fail—Unsatisfactory performance.

Slash grades, e.g. B/A are possible. In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0; a / grade is worth .5 more than the lower letter grade) and averaged according to the weights given above. *Ceteris paribus*, the final mark is the letter grade corresponding to this average plus a margin of 0.1 (i.e., an average of 3.9 earns an A, an average of 3.6 an A -, etc.).

Late policy

Assignments will not normally be accepted after the deadlines unless special permission has been given by the instructor. Failure to submit an assignment or test on time will normally result in a mark of zero. Students who cannot submit an assignment or a test due to medical reasons or other reasonable grounds should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Course website

A course website on U of C's BlackBoard server has been set up. You will be automatically registered if you're registered in the class. To access the BlackBoard site, you can either go directly to blackboard.ucalgary.ca and log in with your UCIT account name and password, or you can access it through the myUofC portal (my.ucalgary.ca; log in with your eID). If you don't have an eID or UCIT account, see elearn.ucalgary.ca/help.html.

Assignments and the final exam will be submitted online via Blackboard using the Assignment link on the left hand menu.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca arts4@su.ucalgary.ca