Philosophy 305 B
Later Medieval Philosophy

An introduction to Christian medieval philosophy with emphasis on philosophers from the 13th to the 15th century. Major figures studies will include Abelard, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, Marsilius of Padua and Autrecourt. The course also includes a brief introduction to the conceptual roots of these thinkers in the writings of Plato and Aristotle. A section is devoted to the speculative and non-speculative mystics.

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Office Hours: Mondays: 900 - 945 hrs; Thursdays: 1130 - 1230 hrs and by appointment.


Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures

Two mid-terms and a final examination. The mid-term examinations are fifty minutes long and the final examination is three hours in length. The mid-term examinations are each worth 20% of the course grade; the final examination is worth 60%. Those who have taken (and received a grade for) both mid-term examinations have the option of having the final examination count for 100% of their course grade. The mid-term examinations cover only the material that has not been tested before in the semester; the final examination is cumulative and covers all of the material dealt with in the course. Students are encouraged to discuss their mid-term examination with the instructor.

Significant dates
- Mid-term examination #1: app. February 4
- Mid-term examination #2: app. March 10
- Final examination: scheduled by the University

Exceptions from course requirements, adjustments for taking examinations at set examination dates, etc. will only be made in accordance with UVic regulations as published in the Calendar. It is the responsibility of the students to acquaint themselves with the relevant particulars. The mid-term examinations will be returned as soon as they are graded. Final examinations are the property of the University and will not be returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office at a time designated by the University.

Grading
Grades will be assigned on a percentile basis with letter grade equivalents as follows: F=0-49; D=50-59; C=60-64; C+=65-69; B-=70-72; B=73-76; B+=77-79; A-=80-84; A=85-89; A+=90-100. The criteria for assigning grades may be found in the University Calendar. Students are encouraged to discuss their examinations with the instructor.

Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity
Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

**Tentative Outline of Lectures**

It is estimated that each section will take approximately one to one-and-one-half weeks. However, this may vary, depending on class discussion and the familiarity of students with relevant philosophical material from other courses in the history of philosophy.

1. **Introduction (Philosophical Background)**
   a. **Plato**
      - Republic available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html)
      - Phaedrus available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html)
      - Phaedo available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedo.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedo.html)
      - Symposium available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/symposium.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/symposium.html)
   b. **Aristotle**
      - de Anima available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/soul.mb.txt](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/soul.mb.txt)
      - Categories available at [http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/categories.mb.txt](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/categories.mb.txt)

2. **Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides) (1138–1204)**
   a. God
   b. The world
   c. Human beings in the world

3. **Levi ben Gershon (Gersonides) (1288—1344)**
   a. Immortality of the soul
   b. God’s knowledge of particulars
   c. Providence and prophecy
   d. Is the universe eternal or created?

4. **St. Bonaventure (John of Fidanza) (1221 – 1274)**
   a. God and the universe
   a. Humanity

5. **St. Thomas Aquinas (di Aquino) (1225 – 1274),**
   a. Reason and faith
   b. Metaphysics
   c. Human beings
   d. Epistemology
      (i) doctrine of analogy
      (ii) via negativa
      (iii) arguments for the existence of God (Five Ways)
6. John Duns Scotus (c. 1266 – 8 November 1308)
   a. Introduction
   b. Metaphysics
   c. Epistemology
   d. Argument for the existence of God

7. William of Ockham (c. 1287 – 1347)
   a. Philosophical and theological principles
   e. Epistemology
   c. Logic
   d. Moral theory
   e. Political thought

8. Marsilius of Padua (Marsilio de Mainardini) (c. 1275 – c. 1342)
   a. Introduction
   b. Political thought

9. Medieval Christian Mysticism

10. Hildegard of Bingen (von Bermersheim) (1098-1179)

11. Mechthild of Magdeburg (1207/1210 -1294?)

12. Meister Eckhart (Eckhart von Hohenheim) (1260 - 1328)
   a. God
   b. God and creatures
   c. God’s self-knowledge
   d. The return to God

12. Johannes Tauler (1300 - 1361)
   a. God
   b. God and creatures

13. Heinrich Suso (Heinrich von Berg) (1300 - 1366)
   a. “Exercises and disciplines”
   b. The Little Book of Truth

14. Julian of Norwich (c. 8 November 1342 – c. 1416)
   a. Julian and the Church
   b. The Visions
   c. The soul and salvation