



## PHI 315.01: MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

**Semester/Term and Year** Spring 2022

**Course Schedule** MWF 2-2:50pm

**Course Location** Welder 210

**Credit Hours** 3 Credit Hours

**Instructor** Dr. Jeremy W. Skrzypek

**Email** Jwskrzypek@umary.edu

**Office Hours** M-F 11am-12pm

**Office Location** Welder Library 173

### Course Description:

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This course examines the continuation of Western philosophy in the medieval period. Central figures may include St. Augustine, Boethius, St. Anselm, and St. Thomas Aquinas, among others. Possible topics are faith and reason, free will, the problem of universals, and the existence of God. A discussion of Islamic and Jewish influences in Western philosophy may also be included.

### Course Outcomes:

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1. Identify some of the major figures in medieval philosophy and summarize their positions on various key issues.
2. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various philosophical positions.
3. Outline the basic sequence of medieval philosophy.

### University Outcomes:

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- i. Analyze philosophical, religious, and secular ethical systems.
- ii. Synthesize information and formulate arguments in written, visual, and oral formats.
- iii. Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate ideas and information from multiple perspectives to make decisions and solve problems.
- iv. Generate conclusions and solutions based on evidence.
- v. Analyze the impact of contemporary, historical, and cultural perspectives.

### Major Assignments:

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These are the assignments on which your final grade for this course will be based. The percentages indicate how much of your final grade is determined by each assignment.

#### **20% Reading Commentaries (10% Each)**

Over the course of the semester, each student is required to choose TWO of the assigned primary text readings from the semester schedule below, and to write a short “medieval commentary” on each. Each commentary should be approximately three-to-four double-spaced pages in length and should include an outline of the reading or passage, as well as a careful description of the way in which the author argues for his or her conclusion. Each commentary must be turned in no later than one week after we are scheduled to cover that reading in class. Students must complete at least one of these reading commentaries by the midterm exam (students may do both in the first half if they desire). Students will also be allowed to rewrite their lowest scoring commentary by the end of the semester for a better grade.

#### **20% Midterm Exam**

The Midterm Exam will cover all of the readings and topics discussed in class up to that point. It will include multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and at least one essay question. The date of the midterm exam is indicated in the semester schedule below.

#### **40% Final Paper**

For the final paper, each student is required to write out, in eight-to-ten double-spaced pages, a complete “disputed question” on one of the important debates in medieval philosophy discussed in class. The disputed question should include a precise formulation of the question to be considered, a series of objections to the author’s position, a list of one or more authorities in support of the author’s position, a presentation of the author’s

position and various arguments for that position, and, finally, at least one response to each of the original objections. There will be a minimal research component to this assignment. More details will be given on the day the essay is assigned.

## **20% Final Exam**

The final exam will cover all of the readings and topics discussed during the second half of the semester. Like the midterm, it will also include multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and at least one essay question, but it will be slightly longer. The date of the final exam is listed at the end of the semester schedule below.

**Note on attendance:** I will be taking attendance in this course, but your attendance record will not directly affect your grade. Students who have university-approved excused absences that do affect their ability to attend class on days in which exams are held, or their ability to complete or turn-in written assignments, are asked to inform me as soon as possible, so that I can determine a fair policy and make the appropriate accommodations. The University of Mary excused absence policy is available for review online: <http://bit.ly/2thGRjo>.

## **Grading Scale:**

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Grades awarded at the University of Mary are A, B, C, D (with + or -), or F. I consider A=Excellent Work; B=Very Good Work; C=Satisfactory Work; D=Poor But Passing Work; F=Failing Work. I will use the following grading scale for both individual assignments and your final grade. Grades will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent, so an 89.9 is a B+, not an A-.

A = 100.0 – 93.0	C = 76.9 – 73.0
A- = 92.9 – 90.0	C- = 72.0 – 70.0
B+ = 89.9 – 87.0	D+ = 69.9 – 67.0
B = 86.9 – 83.0	D = 66.9 – 63.0
B- = 82.9 – 80.0	D- = 62.9 – 60.0
C+ = 79.9 – 77.0	F = <60.0

**Note on late assignments:** Unless specified otherwise, all essays and assignments are due by the beginning of class on the dates listed below, barring any adjustments in the schedule by me. Any papers not received by the beginning of class on the date they are due will receive a TEN POINT deduction (based on the assignment's 100-point scale) PER DAY. No assignments will be accepted more than five days after they are due.

## **Required Texts:**

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1. Hyman, Arthur, James J. Walsh, and Thomas Williams. *Philosophy in the Middle Ages*, Third Edition. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2010. ISBN: 9781603842082
2. Occasional supplementary articles made available through Canvas or otherwise distributed.

**Note on readings:** Students are expected to bring their own copies of the assigned readings to each class. This includes the articles made available through Canvas or otherwise distributed. It is the responsibility of each student to either print out these documents ahead of time, or to bring a suitable electronic device on which these documents can be read. I would *prefer* that you have hard copies of all of the readings, but I also realize that printing out all of the supplementary articles could become expensive, so I am allowing you to use electronic devices on those days, and only on those days, in which the readings are not found in the textbook.

## **Workload Expectations:**

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Since this is a 3-semester credit undergraduate level course lasting 16 weeks, students can expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours per week instructional time and another 6 hours per week studying outside of instructional time.

## **Channel for Communication Relating to this Course:**

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If at any time, any student has any concerns about this course, about particular course policies, about assignments, or about grades received, he or she is asked to raise those concerns following the proper chain of communication, beginning with the professor:

### **Statement Regarding Academic Honesty:**

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Students are expected to read the University of Mary's Academic Honor Code and Honor System and abide by all the standards of conduct and requirements contained therein. When a student is in doubt about whether or not an action might constitute an Academic Honor Code violation, he or she should request clarification from the instructor **before** the action in question is undertaken. The Academic Honor Code is available for review on my.umary.edu using the following link: <http://bit.ly/2t3ORSu>

### **Statement Regarding Reasonable Accommodations:**

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The University of Mary, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and in the spirit of our mission, offers support for disabled students who provide required documentation. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should apply to the Office of Student Accessibility Services. For further information, contact Lynn Dodge, director of Student Accessibility Services, in the Student Success Center (lower level of Welder Library) at (701) 355-8264.

### **[Tentative] Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments:**

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**Note on reading assignments:** Reading assignments listed below [in brackets] are to be read in preparation for the classes on which they are listed. Underlined reading assignments are required readings. All non-underlined reading assignments are suggested readings, readings from which I have drawn in preparing my lectures, and which you can use to help you write your reading commentaries. Readings marked below with an \* are not available in our textbook. These readings will be made available on Canvas. "Readings" marked below with an ^ are actually podcast episodes from Peter Adamson's excellent podcast series "History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps". Links to these optional podcast episodes will be posted to Canvas.

#### Wed., Jan. 12: Class Introductions and Syllabus Overview

Fri., Jan. 14: A Brief History of Philosophy; An Overview of Medieval Philosophy ["Introduction", "Early Medieval Christian Philosophy", "Islamic Philosophy", "Jewish Philosophy", "Latin Philosophy in the Thirteenth Century", "Latin Philosophy in the Fourteenth Century" (Hyman and Walsh: pp. xi-xvi, 1-4, 215-219, 335-337, 409-411, 551-552)]

Mon., Jan. 17: Augustine on Human Freedom, Divine Foreknowledge [Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will*, Book III, Chs. 1-5 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 53-58); "Help Wanted: Augustine on Freedom"^]

Wed., Jan. 19: NO CLASS (Community Learning Day)

Fri., Jan. 21: Augustine on Time [Augustine, *Confessions*, Book 11 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 72-81); Hernandez, "St. Augustine on Time"\*]

Mon., Jan. 24: Boethius on Human Freedom, Divine Foreknowledge, and the Eternity of God [Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Book V (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 127-137); "Fate, Hope, and Clarity: Boethius"^]

Wed., Jan. 26: Same topic continued

Fri., Jan. 28: Anselm on the Existence and of God [Anselm, *Proslogion*, Chs. 1-5, 18-20, 22 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 161-164, 168-170); "Gaunilo's Reply on Behalf of the Fool" (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 173-175); "Anselm's Reply to Gaunilo" (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 175-181); "Somebody's Perfect: Anselm's Ontological Argument"^]

Mon., Jan. 31: Same topic continued

Wed., Feb. 2: Abelard on the Problem of Universals [Abelard, *Glosses on Porphyry* (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 184-202); "All or Nothing: The Problem of Universals"^]

Fri., Feb. 4: Same topic continued ["Get Thee to a Nunnery: Heloise and Abelard"^]

Mon., Feb. 7: Abelard on Moral Goodness [Abelard, *Ethics*, Book I (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 202-214); "It's the Thought that Counts: Abelard's Ethics"^]

Wed., Feb. 9: **Avicenna on Essence, Existence, and God** [Avicenna, *The Salvation* (selection) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 244-247); “By the Time I Get to Phoenix: Avicenna on Existence”^; “By All Means Necessary: Avicenna on God”^]

Fri., Feb. 11: *Same topic continued*

Mon., Feb. 14: **Averroes on the Soul** [Aristotle, *De Anima*, B. III, Ch. 4, 5\*; Averroes, *Long Commentary on The Soul*, B. III, C. 5; B. III, C. 18-20 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 306-324); “Single-Minded: Averroes on the Intellect”^^]

Wed., Feb. 16: *Same topic continued*

Fri., Feb. 18: **Maimonides on What Can Be Said About God** [Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, Book I, Chs. 51-52, 57-58 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 364-369); Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, Book II, Chs. 13, 16, 25 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 371-375); “The Great Eagle: Maimonides”^]

Mon., Feb. 21: **NO CLASS** (Presidents Day)

Wed., Feb. 23: **Review for Midterm Exam**

Fri., Feb. 25: **NO CLASS** (Instructor Away)

Mon., Feb. 28: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Wed., Mar. 2: **Maimonides, Bonaventure, and Aquinas on the Creation of the Universe** [Bonaventure, *In II Sent.* D. 1, P. 1, A. 1, Q. 2\*; Aquinas, *ST*, I, Q. 46, A. 1-2 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 487-493); “Neverending Story: The Eternity of the World”^]

Fri., Mar. 4: **NO CLASS** (Spring Break)

Mon., Mar. 7: *Same topic continued*; **Aquinas on the Existence of God** [Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, I, Q. 2 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 466-470)]

Wed., Mar. 9: *Same topic continued*

Fri., Mar. 11: **Aquinas’s Philosophy of Nature** [Aquinas, *On the Principles of Nature*\*]; Final Paper Assigned

Mon., Mar. 14: **Aquinas’s Metaphysics** [Aquinas, *On Being and Essence* (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 451-457)]

Wed., Mar. 16: *Same topic continued*

Fri., Mar. 18: **Bonaventure and Aquinas on the Composition of Angels** [Wippel, “Metaphysical Composition of Angels in Bonaventure, Aquinas, and Godfrey of Fontaines”]^]

Mon., Mar. 21: **Aquinas on the Soul** [Aquinas, *ST*, I, Q. 75, A. 1-7; Q. 76, A. 1-4; Q. 78, A. 1; Q. 79, A. 2, A. 3 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 494-508 + Aquinas Supplement #1\*; “Everybody Needs Some Body: Aquinas on Soul and Knowledge”^)]

Wed., Mar. 23: **Aquinas on Human Freedom** [Aquinas, *ST*, I, Q. 82, A. 1-4; Q. 83, A. 1-4 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 508-511 + Aquinas Supplement #2\*)]

Fri., Mar. 25: *Same topic continued*; **Aquinas on Moral Goodness** [Aquinas, *ST*, I-II, Q. 18, A. 1-4, Q. 20, A. 1-5 (Aquinas Supplement #3\*); Sokolowski, “Intentions and the Will”; Wilks, “Peter Abelard and St. Thomas Aquinas on Moral Intention”]^]

Mon., Mar. 28: **Aquinas on Law** [Aquinas, *ST*, I-II, Q. 91, A. 1-5; Q. 92, A. 1; Q. 94, A. 1-6; Q. 100, A. 1 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 528-535 + Aquinas Supplement #4\*)]

Wed., Mar. 30: **Scotus on the Existence of God** [Scotus, *Ordinatio*, I, D. 2, P. 1, Q. 1-2 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 556-566); Wood, “Scotus’s Argument for the Existence of God”^]

Fri., Apr. 1: Scotus on the Problem of Universals and Individuation [Scotus, *Ordinatio*, II, D. 3, P. 1, Q. 1, 4, 6 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 582-591); Paasch, “Scotus and Ockham on Universals and Individuation”, pp. 369-383\*; “One in a Million: Scotus on Universals and Individuals”^]

Mon., Apr. 4: Scotus on the Plurality of Substantial Forms [Scotus, *Questions on the Metaphysics of Aristotle*, B. VII, Q. 20; Pasnau, “The Plurality of Forms Debate”]\*

Wed., Apr. 6: Scotus on Divine and Human Freedom [Scotus, *Lectura*, I, D. 39, Q. 1-5 (selections); *Ordinatio*, II, D. 6, Q. 2 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 592-599); “To Will or Not to Will: Scotus on Freedom”^]; **Final Paper Annotated Bibliography Due**

Fri., Apr. 8: Same topic continued; Scotus on Moral Goodness and Natural Law [Scotus, *Ordinatio*, II, D. 40 (selections); *Ordinatio*, III, D. 37 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 599-604; “On Command: Scotus on Ethics”^)

Mon., Apr. 11: Same topic continued

Wed., Apr. 13: Ockham on the Problem of Universals [Ockham, *Ordinatio*, I, D. 2, Q. 4, 6 (selections) (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 616-624); Paasch, “Scotus and Ockham on Universals and Individuation”, pp. 383-392\*]

Fri., Apr. 15: NO CLASS (Good Friday)

Mon., Apr. 18: NO CLASS (Easter Monday)

Wed., Apr. 20: Ockham’s Razor [Ockham, *Ordinatio*, I, D. 30, Q. 1 (Hyman and Walsh: pp. 631-636); “A Close Shave: Ockham’s Nominalism”^]; **FINAL PAPER DUE**

Fri., Apr. 22: Second-Half Summary, Review for Final Exam

Wed., Apr. 27, 1:00-3:00pm: FINAL EXAM