

Syllabus for PHIL 313, Winter 2020, Term 1

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal

1. Course Description

The label “Medieval Philosophy” is applied to the phase of Western philosophy that falls in-between Ancient Philosophy and Modern Philosophy, a time period of roughly a thousand years (from the 5th to 15th centuries). Key Medieval philosophers include Augustine, Boethius, Anselm, Aquinas, Ockham, and Petrarch.

In this course we pursue a careful study of the most influential figure of Medieval Philosophy, namely Augustine (354-430). We pursue a close reading of Augustine’s *Confessions* (the first autobiography in world literature), which provides meditations on a large number of topics, including God, the problem of evil, the meaning of life, free will, sexuality, the human mind, the afterlife, and the nature of time.

Towards the end of the course we survey how Augustine’s thought impacted subsequent Medieval philosophers such as the aforementioned Boethius, Anselm, Aquinas, Ockham, and Petrarch.

2. Lectures

Mon/Wed/Fri: 12:00-12:50 on Collaborate Ultra (accessible via Canvas)
Recorded lectures will be available on YouTube or canvas.

3. Instructor

Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca)

4. Instructor Office Hours

There will be no in person office hours due to social distancing rules related to Covid-19.

5. Instructor Email Policy

Instructor will reply to emails on weekdays. *Email correspondence is intended chiefly for clarification of specific course content and presupposes having listened to the lectures that deals with this content.*

6. Teaching Assistant

TBA

The TA will be marking exams and papers, will hold so-called Review Sessions for you to view marked work, and will answer questions about marked work via email.

7. Required Texts

Augustine. *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: OUP, 2008). (Or any other edition.)

*The above book will be available in the UBC bookstore at very affordable prices, and is also accessible online at many open source sites.

8. Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage Worth
In-Class Exam (x2)	20% (x2)
Take-Home Paper	20%
Final Exam	40%

For dates, see the Schedule at the end of this document.

In the in-class exams you will be asked to provide answers to questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. If you miss the in-class exam you will automatically be assigned 0 points unless you provide the TA with an UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for doing a make-up exam (this is to be provided within 1 week of the day of the exam).

In the take-home paper, you will be asked to write a 3-4 page text in response to one or more questions about material covered in class. The prompt for this paper will be posted on Canvas 1 week before the due date, and is to be submitted on Canvas. A missed assignment will automatically receive 0 points. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless you provide the TA with a UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for an extended deadline (this is to be provided within 1 week of the day of the fixed deadline).

The final exam will be held during UBC's final examinations period. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

9. Lecture Recordings

Lectures covering examinable content will be recorded and uploaded on canvas for students. You will not be required to attend the lectures live, but can listen to them afterwards.

10. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be expected to:

- i. Be familiar with some main themes in Medieval Philosophy
- ii. Have more detailed knowledge of some central themes in Augustine's *Confessions*
- iii. Be aware of problems and prospects attaching to the above themes, and be able reflect critically and constructively on them

11. Marking Parameters

Your mark in this course will be a function of three main factors: 1) your performance on the examinable momenta *relative to your peers*, 2) your comprehension of the course material, 3) demonstration of skill in assessing and evaluating philosophical ideas.

12. Marking Scale

A+ 90-100%	B+ 76-79%	C+ 64-67%	D 50-54%
A 85-89%	B 72-75%	C 60-63%	F 0-49%
A- 80-84%	B- 68-71%	C- 55-59%	

The degree of difficulty on the examinable momenta will be set so as to *aim* at a class average outcome that by and large conforms to the department average for this course down the years, which is in the range 68%-75%, i.e., in the B/B- range. Upwards scaling may be used to this effect.

13. Policy on Review of Marked Work

Marks on exams and papers will be posted on canvas. Marked exams and papers will be retained by the Department. Opportunity to view marked exams and papers will be provided on canvas. Feedback on expected outcomes of exams and papers will be provided (typically by the Instructor) in so-called Feedback Sessions. Any concerns about the marking of a paper or exam should be submitted to the marker (typically the TA) *via email*, and will be responded to (typically by the TA) *via email*.

14. Plagiarism (from the UBC Academic Calendar)

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

15. UBC Values and Policies (from the UBC Academic Calendar)

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>).

16. The Nature of this Syllabus

This syllabus sets out the policies according to which this course will proceed. Enrollment in the course involves an acceptance of these policies.

17. Schedule

See the end of this document.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	September 9 (W)	Introductory Remarks on Medieval Philosophy
	September 11 (F)	Background: Philosophy and Religion in the Roman Empire
<i>Week 2</i>	September 14 (M)	Background: Philosophy and Religion in the Roman Empire
Augustine's Confessions		
	September 16 (W)	<i>Confessions 1</i>
	September 18 (F)	<i>Confessions 2</i>
<i>Week 3</i>	September 21 (M)	<i>Confessions 3</i>
	September 23 (W)	<i>Confessions 4</i>
	September 25 (F)	<i>Confessions 5</i>
<i>Week 4</i>	September 28 (M)	<i>Confessions 6</i>
	September 30 (W)	<i>Confessions 7</i>
	October 2 (F)	<i>Confessions 8</i>
<i>Week 5</i>	October 5 (M)	<i>Confessions 9</i>
	October 7 (W)	<i>Confessions 10</i>
	October 9 (F)	<i>Confessions 10</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	October 12 (M)	THANKSGIVING DAY- NO CLASS
	October 14 (W)	<i>Confessions 11</i>
	October 16 (F)	<i>Confessions 12</i>
<i>Week 7</i>	October 19 (M)	<i>Confessions 13</i>
	October 21 (W)	<i>IN-CLASS EXAM #1</i>
Themes from Augustine's City of God		

	October 23 (F)	<i>City of God: On Greco-Roman Philosophy</i>
Week 8	October 26 (M)	<i>City of God: On God</i>
	October 28 (W)	<i>City of God: On Free-Will and Determinism</i>
	October 30 (F)	<i>City of God: On Various Ethical Issues</i> <i>ESSAY PROMPT AVAILABLE (CANVAS)</i>
Week 9	November 2 (M)	<i>City of God: On the State</i>
Augustine's Influence		
	November 4 (W)	Influence on the Catholic Church in the Early Middle Ages
	November 6 (F)	Influence on Charlemagne and John Scotus Eriugena <i>TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE MIDNIGHT</i>
Week 10	November 9 (M)	Influence on Scholasticism in the High Middle Ages
	November 11 (W)	REMEMBRANCE DAY- NO CLASS
	November 13 (F)	Influence on Renaissance Philosophy in the Late Middle Ages
Week 11	November 16 (M)	Influence on the Protestant Reformation
	November 18 (W)	Influence on Early Modern Philosophy
	November 20 (F)	The Decline of Augustine's Influence in the Late 1600s
Week 12	November 23 (M)	<i>IN-CLASS EXAM #2</i>
Other Themes in Medieval Philosophy		
	November 25 (W)	Ideas on Right and Freedoms
	November 27 (F)	Ideas on Abstract Objects
Week 13	November 30 (M)	Ideas on Logic and Reasoning
	December 2 (W)	Concluding Remarks