

Syllabus for PHIL 313, Fall 2023, 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).

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 massively impacted subsequent Medieval philosophers (Eriugena, Anselm, Aquinas), Renaissance philosophers (Petrarch, Ficino), and Early Modern Philosophers (Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz).

2. Lectures *Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:00-11:50 in UBC Life Building 2202.*

3. Instructor *Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca)*

4. Instructor Office Hours *Office hours will be in person, time and location TBA*

5. Instructor Email Policy *Instructor will read and reply to emails weekdays*

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.) (Will be available in the UBC bookstore.)

8. Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage Worth
In-Class Exam (x2)	20% (x3)
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 or transferring the weight to the final (this is to be provided within 1 week of the day of the exam).

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. Missed Lecture Policy

Lectures will be delivered in the classroom and recorded and posted weekly. (The course can be taken asynchronously except that you need to come in to campus for the exams.)

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 by the marker (typically the TA) in so-called Review Sessions (note that these sessions are not intended for feedback, but only for the viewing of marked work). 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. Schedule

Refer to the end of this document.

17. 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.

18. Schedule

The following schedule is unfinished, and will be updated with content closer to term.

Sept: Augustine's Confessions

This material will be examined via an in-class exam at the end of the month. (Exact date TBA)

Oct: Augustine's Confessions

This material will be examined via an in-class exam at the end of the month. (Exact date TBA)

Nov: Augustine's Confessions and other texts

This material will be examined via an in-class exam at the end of the month. (Exact date TBA)

All class content will be examined on the final exam in December [Exact date TBD].