

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal

1. Course Description

In this course we pursue a careful study of some key writings of Augustine (354-430), the most influential figure of Medieval Philosophy (the label “Medieval Philosophy” applies to the phase of Western philosophy in-between Ancient and Modern Philosophy, from approximately the 5th to the 16th centuries.) The core of the course consists of a close reading of Augustine’s *Confessions*, the first autobiography in world literature, which contains philosophical meditations on a large number of topics, including God, the problem of evil, the meaning of life, free will, sexuality and love, the human mind, the afterlife, and the nature of time.

Throughout the course we pursue multiple digressions on how themes in Augustine’s thought impacted, and were reacted to, in subsequent Medieval philosophy (e.g. Aquinas), Renaissance philosophy (e.g. Petrarch), and Early Modern Philosophy (e.g. Descartes).

2. Lectures. MWF 11:00-11:50 in CHEM C 124

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

4. Instructor Office Hours. 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, and will answer questions about marked work via email.)

7. Required Texts. Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Chadwick (Oxford: OUP, 2008). (Or any other edition.) (Will be available in the UBC bookstore.)

8. Course Requirements

In-Class Exam (x3): 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 these exams you will automatically be assigned 0 points unless you provide the TA with an UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for make-up exam or transfer of the weight to the final exam.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held during UBC’s final examinations period. A missed final exam will be assigned 0p unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be a standing deferred final exam).

9. 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 to reflect critically and constructively on them

10. Lecture Recordings

Lectures will be recorded and uploaded for easy student access typically within 2 days of the lecture in question. Link to recording playlist will be provided at beginning of term.

11. Marking Parameters

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

12. Marking Scale

A+ 90-100% / **A** 85-89% / **A-** 80-84% / **B+** 76-79% / **B** 72-75% / **B-** 68-71%

C+ 64-67% / **C** 60-63% / **C-** 55-59% / **D** 50-54% / **F** 0-49%

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. 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. 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 (more detailed schedule will be published on canvas)

4/9 Introductory remarks

6/9 Overview of Augustine's life, writings, and historical influence

9/9 Augustine's *Confessions* I: a credo; some puzzles; and Know Thyself

11/9 *Confessions* I: criticisms of Roman education; digression on Plato

13/9 *Confessions* I: infancy and the question of pre-existence; digression on Plato

16/9 *Confessions* II: lust vs love; digression on sexual ethics in Plato and Aristotle

18/9 *Confessions* II: nature of vice/sin; digression on Socrates and Plato

20/9 *Confessions* III: Cicero, the Sacred Scriptures, and the Manichaeans

23/9 *Confessions* III: the problem of reconciling natural and Mosaic law

25/9 *Confessions* III: Digression on Plato, Cicero, and St Paul

27/9 *Confessions* III: further remarks on the above problem

30/9 Exam1 (worth 20%)

2/10 *Confessions* IV and V: overview of themes

4/10 *Confessions* IV and V: Mani etc.

7/10 *Confessions* IV and V: Aristotle etc.

9/10 *Confessions* VI and VII: Skepticism

11/10 *Confessions* VI and VII: Skepticism overcome

14/10 Thanksgiving Day

16/10 Exam 2 (worth 20%)

18/10 *Confessions* V-VIII: Platonism

21/10 *Confessions* V-VIII: Platonism

23/10 *Confessions* V-VIII: St John and the Logos of Greek Philosophy

25/10 *Confessions* V-IX: St John and the Logos of Greek Philosophy

28/10 *Confessions* V-IX: Conversion stories; monasticism; conflict of will

30/10 *Confessions* V-IX: conflict of will

1/11 Digression on will, free will, unfree will, in Augustine and the medievals

4/11 Digression on will, free will, unfree will, in Augustine and the medievals

6/11 *Confessions* IX: meditation on Monica

8/11 Exam3 (worth 20%)

11/11 Remembrance Day: no class

13/11 Midterm break: no class

15/11 *Confessions* X: mind; innate knowledge; illumination

18/11 Digression on Augustine's influence on Western rationalism

20/11 *Confessions* XI: time; Greek Philosophy on time

22/11 *Confessions* XI: time; Augustine

25/11 *Confessions* XI: time; responses to Augustine in Boethius and others

27/11 *Confessions* XII-XIII: the *Imago Dei*

30/11 Truth Reconciliation Day: no class

2/12 Digression on the subsequent political and legal impact of *Imago Dei*

4/12 *Confessions* XII-XIII: Augustine's hermeneutics and its historical impact

6/12 A glance at Augustine's *De Civitate Dei* and *De Trinitate*

December: final exam (day and time TBA)