

syllabus for history of philosophy: medieval period (phil 317)

instructor: Dr. David Manley | office: STO 226, 12:30-2pm | dmanley8@gmail.com

time and place: 10:00 -11:50 MW | VKC 151

texts:

1. Handouts
2. *Readings in Medieval Philosophy*, Schoedinger (ed.)
3. *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Boethius
4. *The Discarded Image*, Lewis
5. *A Shorter Summa*, Kreeft (ed.)

description: This course is an introduction to philosophical thought in the Middle Ages (from the fourth to the fifteenth century). Students will engage classic texts from the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic philosophical traditions. Among the central issues addressed are free will and fatalism; the possibility and source of theoretical knowledge; the existence of God; the problem of evil; the existence of universals; moral law and the virtues; and the emergence of scientific thought.

Note: this course *does* satisfy the history requirement for the philosophy major, although the course catalog has not yet been updated to that effect.

quizzes: There will be 5-10 unannounced quizzes on the readings for the day. The quizzes will count for 15% of your grade. If you are absent or late, your grade for that quiz will be zero. No exceptions. However, because there are sometimes legitimate reasons for students to miss class, I will delete every student's two lowest quiz grades.

papers: Three short papers of about 5 pages each will be required. Topics will be drawn from a range of possible topics made available by the instructor. Together, the essays will count for 35% of your grade. Philosophy majors who wish to pursue graduate school in philosophy may discuss the option of writing a serious scholarly research paper for the purposes of a writing sample. The papers are to be submitted electronically to turnitin, as discussed in class, on Feb 16, Mar 26, and May 2. If you're having trouble submitting it to turnitin, you may email it to me.

extensions: If you do not hand in your papers on time, your grade for the assignment will be reduced by 3% per class day. If you expect that you will have to be absent on the due date, you should hand in your assignment early.

exams: There will be a final and a midterm. The final will count for 25% of your grade, and the midterm will count for 20% of your grade.

participation: The remaining 5% will assess the level of your preparedness and participation. Be prepared to articulate some of the basic ideas in the readings, and to ask thoughtful questions about them.

academic integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Always cite work that you draw from, always acknowledge direct quotations, and never represent someone else's work as your own. For more specific guidelines, consult the Student Conduct Code. Any violation of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards and sanctioned according to the Academic Integrity Review Process.

accommodations: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Schedule of Topics and Required Readings

The readings for a class day are to be completed *before* that class.
Due dates for online submission of papers (by 5pm): Feb 16, Mar 26, May 2

- 1/12. **Introduction**
1/14. No lecture.
1. GREEK & PATRISTIC ORIGINS
- 1/21. **Plato: Forms and the Soul**
Reading: Plato, from *Phaedo* and Epictetus, from the *Handbook*
- 1/26. **Aristotle: Telos and Eudaimonia**
Reading: from Aristotle, *Ethics*
- 1/28. **Jesus: Metanoia and the Kingdom**
Reading: from the *Gospels* and from Philo's the *Account of the World's...*
- 2/2. **The Patristic Response to Philosophy**
Readings: from Tertullian, Justin, Clement, Basil, John.
2. THE SYNTHESIS OF LATE ANTIQUITY
- 2/4. **The Discarded Image I**
Reading: Lewis, Ch. 1,2,4 (pgs. 1-21, 45-75)
- 2/9. **Macrina and Gregory of Nyssa**
Reading: from *On the Soul*
- 2/11. **The Consolation I**
Reading: Boethius, Books 1&2
Lewis, pgs 75-91
- 2/18. **The Consolation II**
Reading: Boethius, Books 3&4
3. THE COSMOS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
- 2/23. **The Discarded Image II**
Reading: pgs. 92-121; 139-174; 216-223
- 2/25. **The Eternity of the World**
Reading: handout
- 3/2. **Sense and the Scientific Method**
Reading: TBA
- 3/4. **Light, Magnets, and Things**
Reading: TBA
- 3/9. ***Midterm***
4. METAPHYSICS, EPISTEMOLOGY & LOGIC
- 3/11. **Skepticism and Causation**
Reading: TBA
- 3/23. **On the Soul**
Reading: TBA
- 3/25. No lecture.
- 3/30. **Universals**
Reading: TBA
- 4/1. **Logic**
5. EXISTENCE & ATTRIBUTES OF GOD
- 4/6. **Design and Ontological Arguments**
Reading: TBA
- 4/8. **Cosmological Arguments**
Reading: TBA
- 4/13. **Problem of Foreknowledge**
Reading: TBA
- 4/15. **Problem of Divine Attributes**
Reading: TBA
6. ETHICS & POLITICS
- 4/20. **Act, Intention, Virtue**
Reading: TBA
- 4/22. **God's Law, Man's Law**
Readings: TBA
- 4/27. **Theories of State**
Readings: TBA
- 4/29. **Review**
- Final Exam:** Monday May 11th, 8-10 VKC 151

‡ this symbol before a page number denotes a partial page (usually less than half).