



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 303 Lec 01 – “The Medieval and Renaissance Period” Winter Term 2010

### Course Outline

Lecture Time: MW 1600-1715

Lecture Location: SS 113

#### **Instructor**

Nicole Wyatt

Social Sciences 1214

403-220-3166

[nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca](mailto:nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca)

*Office Hours:* Fridays 12:30-1:30pm, and by appointment

#### **Text**

Bosley, R. N. and M. Tweedale. 2006. *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press.

#### **Description**

This course is a survey of the central philosophical concerns of the leading philosophers in the Christian, Islamic and Jewish traditions from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As we will not be able to explore the views of any individual philosopher in any depth, the focus will be on a number of central issues that were the subject of considerable discussion throughout the medieval period.

We will begin with ethics and discussion of one of the central issues for medieval philosophers—the nature of sin. Our second topic concerns issues in what would now be called philosophy of mind: in particular the relationship between the mind and the body. This will be our second topic. We shall then turn to philosophy of religion, and the question of whether God’s existence can be proven. Our fourth and final topic will be the nature of human knowledge and the rise of skepticism in the late medieval and early renaissance period.

The course serves as both an introduction to philosophy and a survey of medieval philosophy. The emphasis of the course will be on understanding the issues and arguments that concerned the medievals, though many of those issues continue to interest contemporary philosophers as well. As in any philosophy course, students will be encouraged to develop skills in critical and systematic thinking and argument analysis in addition to knowledge of the texts studied.

A reading schedule will be posted on the course website.

#### **Evaluation**

There will be 6 short writing assignments, each of which will focus narrowly on one of the readings, and a take home final exam.

### **Assignment Due Dates**

Assignment 1	Monday Jan 25 <sup>nd</sup>
Assignment 2	Monday Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment 3	Monday March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Assignment 4	Monday March 15 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment 5	Monday March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment 6	Monday April 12 <sup>th</sup>

**Take Home Final**      Distributed Wed April 14<sup>th</sup>, Due Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

### **Grading**

1. *Ceteris paribus*, the assignments will be collectively worth 60% of the grade, and the take home final exam will be worth 40% of the grade. However, students must receive a passing grade on the exam to pass the course.
2. Later virtue will be allowed to redeem earlier sin.

On each assignment and exam question you will receive a letter grade reflecting the level of mastery of the material shown by the work you submit. According to the Calendar, letter grades are defined as follows:

- A      Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
- B      Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
- C      Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
- D      Minimal pass—marginal performance.
- F      Fail—Unsatisfactory performance.

Slash grades, e.g. B/A are possible. In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0; a / grade is worth .5 more than the lower letter grade) and averaged according to the weights given above. *Ceteris paribus*, the final mark is the letter grade corresponding to this average plus a margin of 0.1 (i.e., an average of 3.9 earns an A, an average of 3.6 an A –, etc.).

### **Late policy**

Assignments will not normally be accepted after the deadlines unless special permission has been given by the instructor. Failure to submit an assignment or test on time will normally result in a mark of zero. Students who cannot submit an assignment or a test due to medical reasons or other reasonable grounds should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Course website**

A course website on U of C's BlackBoard server has been set up. You will be automatically registered if you're registered in the class. To access the BlackBoard site, you can either go directly to [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca) and log in with your UCIT account name and password, or you can access it through the myUofC portal ([my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca); log in with your eID). If you don't have an eID or UCIT account, see [elearn.ucalgary.ca/help.html](http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/help.html).

You may submit assignments and the final exam online via Blackboard using the Assignment link on the left hand menu.

## **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.