



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 609.01 Topic 46 – “Advanced Topics in Medieval Philosophy”

"Feminist Philosophy in Medieval Paris"

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 15:30-16:45 in Social Sciences 1253

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Wyatt
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Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 13:00-1400, or email for an appointment.

***Please note: email is the most efficient way to contact me.
For appointments, please indicate your availability in the request.***

Course Description

This course will explore the role of intention and virtue in the ethical theories of two Parisian proto-feminists: Heloise d' Argenteuil, the famous philosopher, nun, and abbess, and Christine de Pizan, Europe's first professional writer. The usual cast of medieval philosophers from Augustine to Montaigne will be discussed as intellectual context for our headliners.

Required Texts

- Abelard and Heloise. *The Letters and other writings*. William Levitan (trans.). Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis. 2007. 978-0-87220-875-9.
- Christine de Pizan. *The Selected Writings of Christine de Pizan*. Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski (ed. & trans.), Kevin Brownlee (trans.). Norton Critical Editions, New York. 1997. 978-0-393-97010-4.
- Kenny, Anthony. *Medieval Philosophy. A new history of western philosophy*, v2. Clarendon Press, Oxford. 2005. 978-0-19-875274-5.
- Other readings will be made available on the D2L website for the class.
- As this is a senior seminar, students will be expected to seek out and locate relevant readings on their own, and are encouraged to share what they find with the rest of the class.

Evaluation

Grades in this class will be based on three components: participation (30%), two 15 min presentations (15% each), and a term paper (40%). Students must receive a passing grade on all three components to pass the class. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

- The term paper is due on December 10, 2014. Students wishing feedback on drafts must submit those drafts by December 1, 2014.
- In-class presentations will occur throughout the term. Sign up will occur in the second week of classes.
- Students will be given interim participation grades (via D2L) on October 15th and November 12th.
- In computing your final grade, your marks on individual assignments will be converted to grade points as defined in the calendar (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0).

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Participation

Participation will be assessed based on the following components: (a) written questions submitted at the beginning of class, (b) contributions to class research projects, (c) constructive contributions to in-class discussion, and (d) constructive feedback given to other students on their presentations. Strong contributions in one area can balance out weak contributions in another.

- *Weekly questions:* Students should submit 1-2 written questions at least four hours ahead of each meeting time. These will be used (anonymously) as a springboard for class discussion, and count towards the participation grade. Submissions can be made via the class website on D2L.
- *Class research projects:* Throughout the term we will embark on various collective research projects, pursued both within and outside seminar meeting times. Students in class and written contributions to these collective research projects will count towards the participation grade. The results of these research projects will be posted on the D2L site for the class.

Policy on Late Assignments

The final paper will not normally be accepted after the deadline unless special permission has been given by the instructor. Failure to submit the paper on time without advance permission will normally result in a mark of zero. Students who cannot submit the paper due to medical reasons or other reasonable grounds should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Dates for class presentations will be set during the second week of classes. If subsequent events make the initial date unsuitable please let me know as soon as possible so that we can re-schedule. Please keep in mind that it is not possible for everyone to give their presentation in the last week of classes.