

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17**

**Philosophy 3012F: Medieval Philosophy**

**Fall Term 2016**

**T 9:30-11:20 am**

**Th 10:30-11:20 am**

**Instructor: Benjamin Hill**

**StvH 3142:**

**519-661-2111 x80143**

**Office Hours: Tues 1:30-2:20 pm**

**Th 9:30-10:20 am**

**Email: Please use OWL**

**Emergency: bhill28@uwo.ca**

**DESCRIPTION**

This is a topically structured survey of the main themes and debates constituting medieval European philosophy. The material will cover, roughly, the period from 400 CE through 1400 CE. Topics to be explored include the natures of theology, logic, and *Scientia*, the problem of universals, divine illumination, abstraction, knowledge and skepticism, the metaphysic structure of bodies, causation, human nature and the soul, essence and existence, God's essence and existence, the nature of goodness, freedom of the will, the virtues and happiness, and the divine and natural law. Figures to be studied include Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas, Henry of Ghent, Averroes, Anselm, Ockham, Scotus, Buridan, Avicenna, and others. This course is perfect for students of philosophy as well as medieval studies students and will provide an introduction to basic issues and



or any other such disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Students are awarded 2.70 points per hour of class attended.

**Homework and Assignments (10%)** There will be weekly quizzes self-administered via OWL and occasional homework or in-class assignments to be submitted for grading. The weekly quizzes will be short, timed quizzes covering material taken directly from class or the assigned reading. The quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks, or short answer (max 1-2 sentences). The homework or in-class assignments will be announced in class and posted on OWL. The OWL quiz portal will open at 6:00 pm on Thursday following a week of classes and will close at 6:00 pm on Saturday. (Reading week will be the only exception.) Weekly quizzes will begin on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mid-term Examination (20%)** There will be one mid-term examination administered on Thursday Oct 20<sup>th</sup> during the usual class time. The students' aims should be to display a mastery of the philosophical material presented in the readings and class discussion. The focus of the exam will be on the ideas, doctrines, and arguments presented in class and in the readings. Students will be expected to present the ideas, doctrines, or arguments, to highlight their philosophically salient features, explain in detail how they work or fit together, and identify any crucial unstated assumptions on which they rely. Students may also be asked to briefly assess an idea, doctrine, or argument and provide specific reasons in support of his or her assessment. Students may also be asked to compare and contrast ideas, doctrines, or arguments between or among various authors or texts.

**Final Examination (30%)** There will be a cumulative, three hour final examination worth 30% of the student's grade. The exam will be administered at the date, time, and location to be dictated by the Registrar's Office. Like the mid-term examination, the final examination will be devoted to displaying a mastery of the philosophical material presented in the readings and class discussion. Students will be expected to describe and present the ideas, doctrines, or arguments, to highlight their philosophically salient features, explain in detail how they work or fit together, and identify any crucial unstated assumptions. Students may also be asked to assess an idea, doctrine, or argument and provide specific reasons in support of that assessment. Students should also expect to be able to compare and contrast ideas, doctrines, or arguments between or among various authors or texts.

**Term Paper (30%)** All students are required to submit a 1250-1500 word term paper. The paper is due at 11:55 pm Tuesday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the paper is uploaded or emailed *before* 11:55 pm according to the upload/email timestamp. Take steps to ensure that your paper is not refused or counted late because of a slight error in timing. Late papers are assessed a 5% deduction per day until midnight Wed Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. No papers can be accepted after midnight on Wed Dec 7<sup>th</sup> per departmental and Senate policy. As of Wed Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, all students who have failed to submit a paper will be awarded a score of 0. Papers failing to fall within the required word count will not be accepted and will not be considered submissions; they will be awarded a score of 0 for the assignment.

Each paper should *defend* a philosophically important and interesting *thesis*. What this

means is that your papers should not be simply expository, but must be analytic papers in that they will present an argument in defense of a substantive philosophical claim. There are a variety of types of acceptable papers ranging from *analyzing* an argument or doctrine, philosophically *assessing* an argument or doctrine, *interpreting* the doctrine or argument of a certain figure, *critiquing an interpretation* that another has offered of a figure's doctrine or argument, or *defending an interpretation* against the critique of another. Authors should clearly state their thesis, construct a clear, coherent, and plausible argument in support of their thesis, and anticipate and respond to one or two potential objections to their thesis or argument. Papers will be graded on the following grounds: the historical and philosophical significance of the thesis; the power and adequacy of the argument marshalled in defense of the thesis; the use of the primary texts; the nature of the secondary sources selected and how they are used in the argument; the significance, interest, and power of the potential objection(s) raised; and the clarity, coherence, and plausibility with which the authors dispatch the objection(s) raised. The foci should be on the thesis and the argument developed in defense of it, but in so far as clarity, grammatical and semantical ability, and style are necessary preconditions for the power or impact of the thesis and its defense, they will be taken into account in the grading of each paper. Because thesis selection and development are part of the philosophical process and will be graded here, topics and paper questions are not provided to the students. Students who have questions about this are strongly encouraged to ask for assistance or advice at the earliest possible time. Students are strongly encouraged to seek out and use only reliable, scholarly vetted and peer-reviewed sources. For example, wikipedia and self-published web or blog postings are prima facie frowned upon and should be used with extreme caution. Students choosing to use such material rather than peer-reviewed articles and books or webposting recommended by the instructor should be prepared to justify his or her selection and use of such material.

**Grade available prior to Oct 29<sup>th</sup>**

The following grades will be available prior to Oct 29<sup>th</sup> a total of 28.5% of your final grade:

Attendance through Oct 25 (3.5%)

Homework and Quizzes through Oct 22, (5.0%)

Mid-term Exam, Oct 29 (20.0%)

## **ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).



- [required reading: K 225-254 and P 622-634]  
 [suggested reading: P 674-686]
- Nov 3 (Th) God's Essence and Existence  
 [required reading: K 255-302]  
 [suggested reading: H 217-242 and P 735-748]
- Nov 8 (T) Goodness and Being  
 [required reading: K 303-317]  
 [suggested reading: H 3-37]
- Nov 10 (Th) Goodness and Being  
 [required reading: K 318-324]  
 [suggested reading: none]
- Nov 15 (T) Freedom of Will  
 [required reading: K 325-336]  
 [suggested reading: none]
- Nov 17 (Th) Freedom of Will  
 [required reading: K337-352 and P 399-413]  
 [suggested reading: H 41-72]
- Nov 22 (T) Virtues and Happiness  
 [required reading: 353-357 and P 457-471]  
 [suggested reading: none]
- Nov 24 (Th) Virtues and Happiness  
 [required reading: 358-360 and P 493-505]  
 [suggested reading: H 287-324]
- Nov 29 (T) Law  
 [required reading: 361-374 and P 565-576]  
 [suggested reading: none]
- Dec 1 (Th) Law  
 [required reading: 375-381]  
 [suggested reading: none]
- Dec 6 (T) Review

### **Marenbon Reading Schedule**

#### **Marenbon, John. *Medieval Philosophy: An Historical and Philosophical Introduction***

These are the dates that the specified chapters from Marenbon will be included in their entirety on the weekly quiz. Where a subsection of material from Marenbon is specified in the class schedule on OWL as required reading on a particular topic, that subsection will be also be covered by the quiz for that week.

- Sept 15 Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-33.  
 Sept 22 Chapter 3, pp. 34-84  
 Sept 29 Chapter 4, pp. 85-130

Oct 6	Chapter 5, pp. 131-171
Oct 13	Chapter 6, pp. 172-204
Oct 27	Chapter 7, pp. 205-270
Nov 10	Chapter 8, pp. 271-328
Dec 6	Chapters 9-10, pp. 329-352