

Department of Philosophy
PHL 200T-01- Spring 2022
Seminar In Medieval Philosophy and Thought
Gregory B. Sadler, Ph.D
Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM
Online Class

I. Course Description:

"Seminar participants survey a range of selected medieval thinkers, examining representative texts, problems, approaches and traditions. Figures studied may be from philosophy, theology, or the humanities more broadly construed."

II. Texts and Readings for the Course:

There is no textbook required for the course. All readings for the class are provided as downloadable PDF files

III. Contact Information:

My Carthage email is gsadler@carthage.edu . In an emergency, you can also email me at my business address: greg@reasonio.com. Email or messages in class website are my preferred mode of communication.

IV. Online Course Sessions:

Each week, I will be holding online class sessions via Google Meet from 7:00-9:00 PM on Mondays. You will be sent calendar appointments with the times and links to each of the online class sessions. These sessions are required for you to attend and participate in. They will be recorded, and recordings will be provided as a resource for students. During the online class sessions, we will be discussing course concepts, examples, applications, and I will be answering questions from students as well.

I will also be holding Online Office Hours sessions via Google Meet from 6:00-7:00 PM on Mondays. These are not required, but are a valuable resource for students to ask questions, get clarifications, or even just discuss matters with me. Online Office Hours will not be recorded.

V. Course Learning Goals

The broad goals for student learning in this course include the following

- developing skills of philosophical analysis, critical thinking, and articulating arguments.
- articulating what is distinctive about representative approaches in medieval philosophy
- developing understanding of central recurring themes within philosophy
- understanding the range of representative topics, problems, and positions within medieval philosophy
- applying philosophy within the context of one's own life and contemporary culture
- developing the resources, motivation, and orientation to go on to continued education within philosophy
- transitioning into life-long learners equipped with resources for continued study

VI. Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify central and distinctive features of representative philosophical perspectives
- Distinguish between different types of philosophical issues
- Systematically and competently present key philosophical perspectives
- Compare and contrast philosophical authors and perspectives with each other
- Critically evaluate claims made within texts and discourses
- Analyze and evaluate complex arguments and explanations in written texts
- Explain key distinctive characteristics, approaches, and forms of medieval philosophy
- Apply philosophical concepts reflectively to student's own life experience and concerns

VII. Course Schedule:

We will be following the schedule detailed below. If necessary, the schedule may be revised over the course of the term:

	Course Content and Readings	
Preparation Wednesday, Feb 2 Sunday, Feb 6	Introduction to Class - Expectations	Introduce Yourself Forum
Week 1 Monday, Feb 7 Sunday, Feb 13	Moving from Antiquity to Middle Ages Prudentius, Psychomachia	Discussion Forum 1 (15 points) Discussion Forum 2 (15 points)
Week 2 Monday, Feb 14 Sunday, Feb 20	Augustine of Hippo, Confessions books 1-4	Quiz 1 (15 points) Discussion Forum 3 (15 points) Discussion Forum 4 (15 points)
Week 3 Monday, Feb 21 Sunday, Feb 27	Augustine of Hippo, Confessions books 5-9	Quiz 2 (15 points) Discussion Forum 5 (15 points) Discussion Forum 6 (15 points)
Week 4 Monday, Feb 28 Sunday, Mar 6	Augustine of Hippo, Confessions books 10-113	Quiz 3 (15 points) Discussion Forum 7 (15 points) Discussion Forum 8 (15 points)
Week 5 Monday, Mar 7 Sunday, Mar 13	Augustine of Hippo, City of God (selections)	Quiz 4 (15 points) Discussion Forum 9 (15 points) Discussion Forum 10 (15 points) Analysis Paper 1 (50 points)
Spring Break Monday, Mar 14 Sunday, Mar 20		
Week 6 Monday, Mar 21 Sunday, Mar 27	Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy books 1-3	Quiz 5 (15 points) Discussion Forum 11 (15 points) Discussion Forum 12 (15 points)
Week 7	Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy books 4-5	Quiz 6 (15 points)

Monday, Mar 28 Sunday, Apr 3		Discussion Forum 13 (15 points) Discussion Forum 14 (15 points)
Week 8 Monday, Apr 4 Sunday, Apr 10	Gregory the Great, Moralia on Job Alcuin, On The Virtues	Quiz 7 (15 points) Discussion Forum 15 (15 points) Discussion Forum 16 (15 points)
Week 9 Monday, Apr 11 Thursday, Apr 14	Anselm of Canterbury, Monologion (selections) and Proslogion	Quiz 8 (15 points) Discussion Forum 17 (15 points) Discussion Forum 18 (15 points)
Easter Break Friday, Apr 15 Monday, Apr 18		
Week 10 Tuesday, Apr 19 Sunday, Apr 24	Anselm of Canterbury, On Truth and on Freedom of Choice	Quiz 9 (15 points) Discussion Forum 19 (15 points) Discussion Forum 20 (15 points) Analysis Paper 2 (50 points)
Week 11 Monday, Apr 25 Sunday, May 1	Anselm of Canterbury, On The Fall of the Devil	Quiz 10 (15 points) Discussion Forum 21 (15 points) Discussion Forum 22 (15 points)
Week 12 Monday, May 2 Sunday, May 8	Bernard of Clairvaux, On The Love of God	Quiz 11 (15 points) Discussion Forum 23 (15 points) Discussion Forum 24 (15 points)
Week 13 Monday, May 9 Sunday, May 15	Abelard and Heloise, Letters	Quiz 12 (15 points) Discussion Forum 25 (15 points) Discussion Forum 26 (15 points) Analysis Paper 3 (50 points)
Finals Monday, May 16 Wednesday, May 18	Final Exam Period	Discussion Forum 27 (15 points) Discussion Forum 28 (15 points)

VIII. Grading Components and Scale

Your final grade will be based on the following weighted components, worth 1000 points total:

Discussion Forums	28X15 =	420
Introduce Yourself Forum		20
Quizzes	12X15 =	180
3 Analysis Papers	3X50 =	150
Final Examination		150
Participation		80
		1000 total

Here is the grading scale used to assign Midterm and Final Grades:

		100%-94%	A	93.9%-90%	A-
89.9%-87%	B+	86.9%-84%	B	83.9%-80%	B-
79.9%-77%	C+	76.9%-74%	C	73.9%-70%	C-
69.9%-67%	D+	66.9%-64%	D	63.9%-60%	D-
		59.9%-0%	F		

IX. Assignments and Graded Components of the Course:

Detailed information and a grading rubric for each assignment can be found in the "Assignments" section in the course site. See the Course Calendar or the schedule above for the dates for the assignments below.

1. Practice Quizzes: Students will take online practice quizzes over the course of the term, assessing knowledge and understanding of selected topics studied. These examination may consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, or other similar types of questions on the class material. Students may take quizzes multiple times in order to earn a higher score.

2. Online Discussion Forums: Active participation in this class is essential to learning about Business Ethics. It is expected of every student that he or she come to class well prepared to actively discuss, engage, and think about the materials assigned through engaging in discussions in class Forums throughout the week. You will have mandatory and graded forums each week of the term. A rubric and further discussion of class participation will be provided to you in the course site.

3. Analysis Papers: Over the course of the semester, students will be assigned three analysis papers expected to be a minimum of 5 full pages in length. Particular stress will be placed upon competent exposition, analysis, and comparison of the philosophical texts and concepts. Some of these assignments may be graded for completion. A rubric, more detailed instructions, and models for these assignments will be provided in the course site

4. Participation in Online Class Sessions: Students are expected to not just show up to online course sessions, but to actively participate in sessions in ways that demonstrate they are well-informed about the readings for the class. A rubric will be provided for online class session participation

5. Final Examination: Students will take a final online examination assessing knowledge and understanding of the topics studied during the course of the semester. This examination will consist of multiple choice/matching/fill-in the blank questions, essay questions, and exercises to be carried out in the exam sessions. Essay questions will be drawn from a pool of questions which you will be provided in advance. Students will also be provided with a detailed study guide for the final examination

6. Late Assignments: I do not provide "extensions" on assignments to students. Assignments can be handed in late, up until the last day of the class. Assignments may be handed in late without penalty only if the student 1) has a reasonable and documented excuse and has clearly made an effort to complete the assignment 2) up to standards and 3) in as timely a manner as possible. Any other late assignments are worth 70% of the grade they otherwise would have received.

7. Revising Assignments. Each student may revise and resubmit ONE Analysis Paper assignment. over the entire term. I set Assignments in to allow one resubmission per assignment. That is NOT an invitation to resubmit an assignment in hopes of getting assigned a higher grade. It is to allow students

who upload the wrong file the ability to upload the correct one. Revised and resubmitted assignments will be graded rigorously.

X. Academic Honesty:

The penalty for plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind can include failing the course (not the assignment: the course). The minimum penalty for plagiarism in my class is a zero grade on the assignment (and plagiarized work may not be revised and resubmitted). It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is. If you have any doubts, please discuss them with your professor before you turn in the assignment. As a reminder, the Carthage College policy concerning Academic Honesty is available here: www.carthage.edu/community-code/academicconcerns/academic-honesty-guidelines/

XII. Disability Services:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You also need to meet with and provide documentation to Diane Schowalter in the Advising Center, x5802 or email dschowalter1@carthage.edu.

XIII. Writing Center

The Brainard Writing Center is a free resource for student writers. The center is staffed by undergraduate Writing Fellows who have been recommended by Carthage faculty and trained to work with other students on their writing. They can work with you at all stages of the writing process, including understanding the assignment, brainstorming ideas, drafting, revising, and proofreading. This semester they are offering in-person, Zoom live virtual, and written feedback consultations. For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit carthage.edu/writing-center.

XIV. Health and Counseling Center

The Health and Counseling Center (HCC) supports students by addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All services are free and confidential and are available to currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students. Health services include the assessment and treatment of minor illness and injury. Diagnostic testing, complimentary over-the-counter medications, and referrals to off-campus providers are all available. Our licensed counselors help students with challenges that can be resolved with short-term, solution-focused counseling. Some topics discussed during counseling include depression and anxiety, traumatic experiences, gender and sexuality, relationship concerns, stress management, and academic challenges. More details - including info about appointments - can be found at carthage.edu/health-counseling.

Uwill is a free teletherapy platform for Carthage students. Uwill connects students with licensed therapists from all 50 states. Support is available in a variety of formats -- video, chat, messaging, or phone. Counselors are available nights, weekends, and during holidays. Access is quick and easy: app.uwill.com.

XV. Other Expectations of Students:

1. Disruptive Behaviors in Class Sessions and Discussion Forums: Certain behaviors are not conducive to a good classroom learning environment in general or to the study of philosophy in particular. The classroom belongs to all of us, and the activity of shared learning structured by the instructor takes priority over other activities. If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor will point it out and ask the student to end the behavior. If the student chooses to continue the disruptive behavior, he or she will be asked to leave the classroom for that class session.

It is expected that students will find the material we are studying challenging both academically and to some of their beliefs and values. Part of the process of learning in philosophy involves some disagreement, making and assessing arguments, and conflict of perspectives. It is absolutely imperative that disagreements – even if they raise strong emotional reactions or involve deeply held beliefs and values – be conducted in a civil, respectful manner. Students are to behave in a respectful manner not only towards the instructor, but also (and especially) towards their fellow students and towards the subject material we are studying.

The purpose of the class sessions are to engage in study of the course material. Students should not be engaged in side-conversations or remarks while the instructor or another student is talking.

2. Disagreements with Classroom Management or Course Structure: Any disagreements or dissatisfaction on the part of a student with classroom management, course structure, or course requirements should be brought up with the instructor after class by email – not during class sessions.

Note: This does not apply to reasonable questions about course requirements or assignments. It also does not apply to a student's reasonable disagreement with one of the authors or positions which we are studying.

Course Schedule: