PHIL303

Course Summary

Course : PHIL303 **Title :** Medieval Philosophy
Length of Course : 8
Prerequisites : PHIL101 **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course considers the synthesis of Christianity with classical pagan philosophy achieved by St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. What became of the ancients' ideal of human knowledge in an age when philosophy became the "handmaid of theology"? What were the underpinnings of the "natural law" conception of moral and political philosophy? How did this medieval synthesis break down, on the scientific side with Galileo's challenge to Aristotelian physics and astronomy, and on the moral and political side with Machiavelli's portrayal of a Renaissance prince? (Note to Students: The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in this upper level undergraduate course assume that the student has completed all lower level general education and career planning coursework necessary to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students who have not fulfilled all general education requirements through courses or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for this course. (Prerequisite: PHIL101).

Course Scope:

The course begins with the sack of Rome and the mature philosophy of Augustine. Material after the Reformation is not considered, but in fact the focus is even earlier, being generally not later than the 14th century.

The focus is on Western thought.

Objectives

Learning Objectives

1. Define key trends in the development of western thought.
2. Write papers and conduct discussions that demonstrate critical thinking concerning the early western philosophers.
3. Select and evaluate relevant primary sources, criticism, & research for the assigned papers.
4. Use proper documentation for the assigned papers.

Outline

Week 1:

Topic(s)

Augustine – Epistemology & Philosophy of Language

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2

Students will be able to describe key elements of Augustine's epistemology.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

The Teacher, in Augustine, tr. King, Peter. *Against the Academicians and the Teacher* (Hackett Classics). 1995.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Also, post in the introduction board.

Week 2:

Topic(s)

Augustine – Metaphysics & Ethics.

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2

Students will be able to describe the metaphysical or moral views of Augustine.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Saint Augustine. Confessions of St. Augustine. Auckland, NZL: The Floating Press, 2009. Book XI.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Week 3:

Topic(s)

Boethius, Pseudo- Dionysius, & Eriugena

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2

Students will be able to describe the views of post- Augustine, pre- Schism Catholic authors.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Marenbon, John. *Early Medieval Philosophy (480-1150), an Introduction.*

London, GBR: Routledge, 1988. pp. 27-89.

Thom, Paul. *Medieval Philosophy: Texts and Studies: Logic of the Trinity : Augustine to Ockham.* Bronx, NY, USA: Fordham University Press, 2012. Ch. 6.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Week 4:

Topic(s)

Anselm & Abelard

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 - 4

The students will be able to describe the thinking of 11th and 12th century

Catholic authors.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Marenbon, John. *Early Medieval Philosophy (480-1150), an Introduction.*

London, GBR: Routledge, 1988. pp. 90-110, 157-163.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Research paper due

Week 5:

Topic(s)

Bonaventure & Albertus Magnus

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2.

Students will be able to describe the key teachings of Albertus Magnus.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Marenbon, John, ed. *Routledge History of Philosophy : Medieval Philosophy, Volume 3*. London, GBR: Routledge, 1998. ProQuest ebrary. Web. Chp. 10.

Cunningham, Stanley B.. *Reclaiming Moral Agency : The Moral Philosophy of Albert the Great*. Washington, DC, USA: Catholic University of America Press, 2008. ProQuest ebrary. Web. Chp. 5.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Week 6:

Topic(s)

Aquinas – Epistemology & Metaphysics

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2

Students will be able to describe the key epistemological and metaphysical teachings of the Aquinas.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Marenbon, John, ed. *Routledge History of Philosophy : Medieval Philosophy, Volume 3*. London, GBR: Routledge, 1998. ProQuest ebrary. Web. Chp. 11.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Week 7:

Topic(s)

Aquinas – Ethics & Political

Learning Objective(s)

Learning Objectives 1 & 2 Students will be able to describe the key moral teachings of Aquinas.

Reading(s)

From APUS Library:

Eardley, Peter S., and Still, Carl N.. *Aquinas: A Guide for the Perplexed.* London, GB: Continuum, 2010. ProQuest ebrary. Web. Chp. 5 & 6.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Week 8:

Topic(s)

Scotus & Ockham & the Renaissance

Learning Objective(s)

 Learning Objectives 1-4

Students will be able to describe European philosophy in the period after Aquinas but prior to Luther.

Reading(s)

 From APUS Library:

Marenbon, John, ed. *Routledge History of Philosophy : Medieval Philosophy, Volume 3*. London, GBR: Routledge, 1998. ProQuest ebrary. Web. Chp. 13: pp. 307-322.

Assignment(s)

Post a summary of your thinking regarding this important matter on the discussion board.

Research Paper: A Scholarly research paper –due at the end of the 8th week.

Evaluation

Evaluation Procedures

Discussion Board Posts

There will be a discussion question posted for each week's reading. You are required to make a minimum of three posts each week to the discussion board for the relevant week. The first post should respond directly to the discussion question posed. The second post should be in response to another student's post and should reflect a meaningful dialogue with that student (i.e., Rather than stating simply that you agree or do not agree with a given student's post, please state in detail why). For this reason, the first post should be made as early in the week as possible, to give other students a chance to respond to it. A third post is also required.

First Paper

Due week four. **MLA standards must be followed. Must be at least 3,600 words.**

Second paper

Due week five. **MLA standards must be followed. Must be at least 3,600 words.**

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	50.00 %
Week 1 - Forum 1	6.25 %
Week 2 - Forum 2	6.25 %
Week 3 - Forum 3	6.25 %
Week 4 - Forum 4	6.25 %
Week 5 - Forum 5	6.25 %
Week 6 - Forum 6	6.25 %

Week 7 - Forum 7	6.25 %
Week 8 - Forum 8	6.25 %
Papers	50.00 %
Week 4 - Assignment One	25.00 %
Week 8 - Assignment Two	25.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Against Academicians and the Teacher - e-book available in the APUS Online Library

Author: St. Augustine

Publication Info: Hackett

ISBN: 9780872202122

Book Title: To find the library e-book(s) req'd for your course, please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php to locate the eReserve by course #. You must be logged in to eCampus first to access the links.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Marenbon, John. *Early Medieval Philosophy (480-1150), an Introduction.* London, GBR: Routledge, 1988.

Thom, Paul. *Medieval Philosophy: Texts and Studies: Logic of the Trinity : Augustine to Ockham.* Bronx, NY, USA: Fordham University Press, 2012.

Marenbon, John, ed. *Routledge History of Philosophy: Medieval Philosophy, Volume 3.* London, GBR: Routledge, 1998.

Cunningham, Stanley B. *Reclaiming Moral Agency : The Moral Philosophy of Albert the Great. Washington, DC, USA: Catholic University of America Press*, 2008.

Eardley, Peter S., and Still, Carl N. *Aquinas: A Guide for the Perplexed.* London, GB: Continuum, 2010. Ch. 5 & 6.

Saint Augustine. *Confessions of St. Augustine.* Auckland, NZL: The Floating Press, 2009.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework to the Humanities Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

<u>School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy</u>

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a

message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.

- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.
- The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior instructor approval.
- Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your quiz. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time, Day 7 of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy

- Extension Requests

- Academic Probation

- Appeals

- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.