

Phil 304

Origins of Medieval Philosophy

Spring 2019

Prof. Brian Leftow

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106 Stelton, Rm 305

Office hours: W 2:30 - 3:30 or by app't.

W 9:50 - 11:10, F 2:250 - 4:10 SC 205

Course Description: we will survey major figures who set the broad framework for medieval philosophy, and the earliest major thinkers of the period- Augustine, Boethius, Saadia, Avicenna and Anselm. The emphasis will be on arguments and views in metaphysics and philosophy of religion.

Credit Hours: 3

Texts for purchase:

Saadya Gaon, The Book of Doctrines and Beliefs, 978-0-87220-639-7

Anselm, Monologion and Proslogion, 978-0-87220-297-9

Anselm, Three Philosophical Dialogues, 978-0-87220-611-3

Boethius (tr Watts), The Consolation of Philosophy 978-0140447804

Any readings not in the required texts will available online.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- understand and evaluate positions and arguments in metaphysics and philosophy of religion as these occurred in medieval philosophy,
- understand the broad framework within which medieval philosophy began, and
- recognize the “distinctives” of medieval philosophy.

Reading policy

Students should have read the material for each class by the day of that class. To encourage this, if necessary, there will be pop quizzes on the reading, before the day's lecture: the number to be determined by the instructor's sense of students' preparedness.

Tech policy

Laptops, tablets etc. are weapons of mass distraction. Distracted students learn little. I want you to learn much. Therefore: no tech. No electronic devices are allowed for note-taking, save by special permission. Phones are to be turned off and stowed. Each time I see you looking at a phone, 3 points will be deducted from your next exam.

Civility policy

In discussion, be civil.

Attendance policy

Rutgers requires: “Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.”

I will take attendance each class. You may miss 1 class unexcused without penalty. Further unexcused absences cost 5 points each. Excused absences will be at my discretion. Things like medical problems, family emergencies, and religious observances are good reasons.

Grade matters

Midterm 25%

Final (comprehensive): 50%

Paper 25%

These percentages may be adjusted in light of the number and length of pop quizzes, if there are any. Exams will be by essay. Papers will be 10 pages, University of Chicago style manual style, and due the last day of class. Their topics must be approved by me; students may consult me for help in picking these and bibliographic steers. Papers must provide analysis and evaluation, not just exposition. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation must follow University procedures as at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Final exam will be as listed in <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu>. Midterm date may be adjusted in light of religious holidays.

Grading scale:

90s A-grades. For excellent work only.

80s B-grades. For work better than expected.

70s C-grades. For work just meeting expectations for students at this level.

60s D-grades. For barely passing work.

Jan. 23- General intro

Jan. 25- Augustine- introduction, Forms and Platonism (Selections 1 - 3, in online course reserve)

Jan. 30- Augustine- matter (Confessions XII, i 1 – xii 15), time (Confessions XI), change and being (Selections)

Feb. 1- Augustine- the metaphysics of value (The Nature of Good)

Feb. 6- Augustine- the existence of God (Selections 8, On Free Choice bk 2, 8-12 and 15-16); God's nature (Selections 9-11; City of God V 9-10, XI 10 and 21; On Free Choice foreknowledge text online; City of God XI 4-6)

Feb. 8- Augustine- God's nature cont'd

Feb. 13- Augustine- God's nature cont'd; ethics

Feb. 15- Boethius- intro, Consolation bks 1-2

Feb. 20- Cont'd

Feb. 22- Boethius- Consolation bk 5

Feb. 27- Cont'd

Mar. 1- Saadia- Book 49-62

Mar. 6- Saadia- Book 80-92, 118-125, 124-139

Mar. 8- Midterm

Mar. 13- Avicenna: matter and universals McGinnis 156-8, 167 (2)- 168, Spade texts on universals

Mar. 15- Avicenna: God McGinnis 211-3, 214-5, 217-8

Mar. 20- Anselm: freedom (On Truth, ch. 12; On Freedom of Choice; On the Fall of the Devil 1-6, 12-18, 20-27)

Mar. 27- Cont'd.

Mar. 29- Anselm: Monologion 15-17, 65; Proslogion 5; Reply to Gaunilo 8.

Apr. 3- Cont'd.

Apr. 5- Anselm: Monologion 1-2, 68, 80; Proslogion preface, 1-2.

Apr. 10- Gaunilo, On Behalf of the Fool

Apr. 12- Anselm, Reply to Gaunilo, rest of Proslogion

Apr. 17- Anselm, Proslogion cont'd; Monologion 1-4; de veritate 2, 7, 12; On the Incarnation of the Word 13, 15.

Apr. 19- Anselm, Monologion 13, 18-24.

Apr. 24- Cont'd.

Apr. 26- catchup or Anselm, Cur Deus Homo

May 1- catchup or Anselm, Cur Deus Homo

May 3- catchup or Anselm, Cur Deus Homo

Academic Honesty Policy Summary

Introduction

In addition to skills and knowledge, Rutgers aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty

Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard. It is important to keep in mind that if you use material from an on-line source (or any other source), you must acknowledge this and provide a reference to the source. Changing a few words in the material that you have borrowed does not exempt you from this requirement. For additional information on the Rutgers University policies on academic integrity, go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

Consequences

An instructor may impose a sanction on the student that varies depending upon the instructor's evaluation of the nature and gravity of the offense. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Require the student to redo the assignment; (2) Require the student to complete another assignment; (3) Assign a grade of zero to the assignment; (4) Assign a final grade of "F" for

the course. Any violations of this policy will result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct for possible additional sanctions.