

History/Philosophy 119 > Medieval Thought <

-----Spring 2008----- when: F: 1:15-4:00--- where: *** -----

Instructor: Brian Keeley, Philosophy

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Course Website: http://mugwump.pitzer.edu/~bkeeley/CLASS/med/spr08/med_fall08.htm

Sakai Site: <http://sakai.claremont.edu/>

Summary:

In the medieval period (400-1450 C.E.), people sought to balance Christian and classical Greek and Roman traditions, as well as the intellectual and material worlds. This course explores that balance in questions of God as a philosophical concept, definitions of the self and its component parts, the nature of Christ as human or divine, and the possibility of religious plurality. We will also examine the interplay of thought and materiality through the phenomena of universities and the Renaissance.

Course Requirements:

This course is a seminar. Doing the reading and participation in class discussion are required. Attendance is also required: you may be absent from one class without any penalties, but after the first absence your participation grade will drop. Written assignments include: two 4-5 page papers and a final.

Grading:

Class participation and discussion assignments (40%), two 4-5 page papers (35%), final (25%)

Readings:

C.W. Hollister's *Medieval Europe: a short history* is available for background reading. If you're confused about how a week's readings fit into larger social, political, or economic themes of the time period, consult the textbook or come talk to one of us in office hours.

The following books are available at the Huntley Bookstore and are on 2-hour reserve at Honnold Library:

- C.W. Hollister, *Medieval Europe: a short history*
- Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*
- Baxandall, Michael. *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-century Italy*
- Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*.
- Bosley & Tweedale (eds.) *Basic issues in medieval philosophy*.
- Knowles & Luscombe (eds.), Brooke (trans), *Evolution of Medieval Thought*. 2nd ed.
- Mechthild of Magdeburg, Selections from *The Flowing light of the Godhead*

- Course copy packet (available thru Sakai)

Please note: there is a reading assignment BEFORE the first day of class.

Week One: January 25

Foundations

Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*

Week Two: February 1

Negative Theology

Plotinus (BIMP: 579-580, IX.1; EMT, Ch.2)

Pseudo-Dionysius (BIMP: IX.2; EMT, 50-52)

John Scotus Eriugena, Ibn-Tufail (BIMP: IX.3, IX.4)

Week Three: February 8

Human and Divine I: the Orthodox Church and the Material

Evagrius Ponticus, *The Praktikos*

John of Damascus (selections against iconoclasm)

Week Four: February 15

The Ontological Argument and Anselm

Aristotle & Anselm (BIMP: "Intro.", 247-248, IV.1, IV.3)

The Ontological Arg: Anselm, Gaunilo (BIMP ***, EMT: 90-97)

Week Five: February 22

Human and Divine II: Augustine and his Sins

Aristotle & St. Augustine (BIMP: "Intro.", 501-502, VIII.1, VIII.2)

Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God* (selections)

First paper due Monday, February 25 at 4 pm.

Week Six: February 29

Universities 1: France

Peter Abelard (EMT: Ch.10; BIMP: VIII.4, VIII.5); *History of Calamities* (selections)

Week Seven: March 7

Vincent of Beauvais and Encyclopedic Knowledge

John of Plano Carpini, *History of the Mongols* (selections)

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales* (selections)

Week Eight: March 14

Human and Divine III: Aquinas

Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas (BIMP: 95-96, II.1, II.4)

Aquinas (EMT: Ch.10; BIMP: VIII.4, VIII.5), *Summa theologiae* II-II.10.12 and III.68.10, “On whether it is lawful to baptize the children of non-Christians against the wishes of their parents”

Week Nine: March 21

Spring Break

Second paper due March 27 at 4 p.m.

Week Ten: March 28

Cesar Chavez Day (holiday at Pitzer College)

Week Eleven: April 4

Positive Theology

Duns Scotus vs. William of Ockham (BIMP: II.5, II.6)

Duns Scotus (EMT: 276-282; BIMP: IV.6)

William of Ockham (EMT: Ch. 27; BIMP: IV.7)

Week Twelve: April 11

Mysticism: the “Darkness which is beyond Intellect”

Mechthild of Magdeburg, *Works* (selections)

Meister Eckart (BIMP: IX.5)

Hadewijch of Brabant, *Works* (selections)

Week Thirteen: April 18

Universities II: Italy

Anthony Grafton and Lisa Jardine, *From Humanism to the Humanities* (selections)

Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-century Italy*

Week Fourteen: April 25

Perception and Physics

Aristotle, William of Ockham, Nicholas of Autrecourt

Week Fifteen: May 2

Negative Theology and Religious Diversity

Nicholas of Cusa

Idiota, De pace fidei (selections)

Final Exam: as scheduled by registrar

No early final exams will be given, so please make your travel plans accordingly.