

**Medieval Philosophy
Philosophy 304
Spring 2012**

Instructor: Philip M. Mouch

Where: Bridges 357

Office: Bridges 359c

When: T 5:00-7:30pm

Office Phone: 477-2331

Office Hours: M 10-1, 3-4; T 1:30-2:30; W 11-1, 3-4;

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H 1:30-3:30; and by appointment

homepage: <http://web.mnstate.edu/mouch/304/304index.html>

Course Overview: We will be looking at some of the major figures from the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic traditions during the medieval period. Much of the period focuses on Platonic and Aristotelian views connecting, and conflicting, with various religious views. As a result, some of the questions that will come up include the existence and nature of God, universals, free will, and the nature of the mind, as well as the relationship between faith and reason. I expect the course to proceed in a seminar style.

Texts: The required text for the class is:

Philosophical Classics v.2: Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, 6th ed. Forrest E. Baird, ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.

Evaluation: There will be a total of three papers (5-7 pages) due over the course of the semester. I will also expect each student to lead discussion at least once during the semester. (We will figure out who will lead discussion when at the first meeting.) Students will be expected to turn in two-page summaries of the material on which they are to lead discussion. These summaries must be handed in to me no later than two hours before class. The papers are each worth 25% of your final grade. Leading discussion and the summary is worth 15% of your final grade. Weekly writing assignments will make up the last 10% of your final grade.

POLICIES:

(1) You are responsible for all assignments to be handed in. Late assignments will be penalized. Excuses such as you handed in the paper to my mailbox, slid it under my door, or gave it to a friend to hand in are unacceptable. I will take such papers, but if the paper never showed up for whatever reason, it will count as late. You should be in class to hand in all assignments; otherwise you take the risk of not getting credit for your work.

(2) The final drafts of all the papers are to be typed and double-spaced. Margins of an inch on the top and bottom and an inch and a quarter on the left and right sides of the page are standard. Twelve point fonts are also standard. You should proofread your papers. If there are more than three typos or spelling errors per page, I will return the paper to you, and it must be handed in, cleaned up, at the next class meeting. Such papers will count as a day late. Papers are due at the beginning of class, so be sure to check your printer to make sure you have enough ink well before the paper is due. Furthermore, **plagiarism will not be tolerated**. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the paper, the class, and be reported. Refer to the Student Handbook for more information on Academic Honesty.

(3) You are expected to be in class and have done the reading for the day. It is simple courtesy to be in class on time and in your seat. If you have to be late for some reason, please enter the room and take your seat quietly, so as not to disturb the class. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING CELLPHONES, PAGERS, AND IPODS). Do not engage in text messaging during class. Do not engage your neighbor in conversation during class. If you text or engage in personal discussions during class, I will ask you to stop. If you repeat the behavior, I will ask you to leave the room. Finally, do not stand up and walk out in the middle of the class period. This is distracting and rude to the other students and me. If you must leave early for some reason, please talk to me before class and sit near the door.

Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 477-5859 (voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 114 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Readings: This is a likely reading assignment list. As we progress, we may make changes. You should also read the introduction to each philosopher as we come to it. I will give you handouts to supplement our text, probably more than what is indicated below.

Date	Assignment
Jan 10	Introduction
Jan 17	Augustine - On Free Choice of the Will (pp. 46-74)
Jan 24	Augustine - Confessions (pp. 74-88)
Jan 31	Augustine - City of God (pp. 89-116)
Feb 7	MN Precinct Caucuses - No Class
Feb 14	Boethius - The Consolation of Philosophy (pp.125-133) Anselm (pp. 143-150) First Paper Assigned
Feb 21	Avicenna (pp. 191-205) al-Ghazali (handout) First Paper Due
Feb 28	Averroes (pp. 210-231)
March 6	Maimonides - The Guide for the Perplexed (Part 1) (pp. 234-239 & handout)
March 13	Spring Break - No Class
March 20	Maimonides - The Guide for the Perplexed (Parts 2&3) (pp. 240-252) Second Paper Assigned
March 27	Aquinas (pp. 311-332) Second Paper Due
April 3	Aquinas (pp. 332-367)
April 10	Aquinas (pp. 367-399)
April 17	Ockham (pp. 440-466)
April 24	Meister Eckhart & Catherine of Siena (pp. 467-480)
May 1	Luis de Molina (pp. 519-525) Third Paper Assigned
May 8	Last Class Third Paper Due