

Philosophy 3110 Medieval Philosophy Dr. Sherlock Spring 2017

Time and Place Tuesday/Thursday 9 am Main 201

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OFFICE HOURS T/H 10:30—11:30 and 3—5 and by appointment

Text : Hyman and Walsh, *Philosophy in the Middle Ages 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.*

Requirements : a take home mid-term and a take home final. Plus 6 2 page summary papers. These papers are to summarize in your own words an argument in the text. Mid-term and final will be worth 150 points papers will be worth 100. I also offer two extra papers if you do one of the extra papers I will drop your lowest score. If you do 2 I will drop your lowest 2 scores

Also there will be 8 unannounced quizzes If you are there you CANNOT fail these.  
NO MAKE UP

IF YOU GET 6 OUT THE 8 THEN YOU WILL GET 20 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS. IF YOU DON'T GET 6 YOU GET 0

Outline of course

January 10 Introduction to Course

January 12 Background

January 17 Augustine Biography and Concept of God reading pp. 66--81

January 19 Signs and Knowledge, paradox of the learner, illumination 9—34

January 24 proof of the existence of God, freewill and grace, debate with pelagians  
34—60

January 26 freedom and divine foreknowledge, city of man vs city of God 81—99

January 31 Aquinas biography philosophy/theology, faith and reason pp. 457—466

February 2 Aquinas existence of God, God as Good, God as Creator 466—493

February 7 Aquinas human beings body and soul, knowledge and abstraction 494—518

February 9 Aquinas virtues 518—538

February 14 Aquinas law/natural law

February 16 Bonaventure The Mind's Journey to God 417—439

February 23 Saadia God as creator 341—350

February 28 Saadia Laws of Reason and Revelation 346--350

March 2 Maimonides Biography negative theology 364—369 PASS OUT MID-TERM

March 14 Maimonides creation 369—375

March 16 Maimonides prophecy 375—382

March 21 Maimonides Law and Society 382—385 MIDTERM DUE

March 23 Avicenna Biography necessity and contingency, cosmological argument  
244—249

March 28 Avicenna causes 249—255

March 30 Avicenna God and creation 256—261

April 4 Avicenna the soul 261—264

April 6 Averroes Biography faith and reason law requires philosophy 289—292

April 11 Averroes philosophy and Islam, politics and philosophy 292—304

April 13 Averroes the soul 304—324

April 18 Averroes response to Al Ghazali 324—333

April 20 Later Medieval

April 25 Review

In the case of each philosopher we will be primarily concerned about 4 topics: faith and reason, God, knowledge, morality



Paper topics and due dates 2 pages for each paper

1. What are the beliefs of the Manichees about God, Satan and matter and what is Augustine's response DUE JANUARY 26
  
2. What is Anselm's argument for the existence of God and what is Aquinas' response DUE FEBRUARY 13
  
- 3 What is Aquinas' view of the relation between the soul and the body DUE FEBRUARY 23
  
4. What is Maimonides's view of Moses as a prophet DUE MARCH 23
  
5. Describe Avicenna's "flying man" argument and explain what it shows about what everyone must know. DUE APRIL 11
  
- 6 How does Averroes differ from Avicenna on the distinction between essence and existence. DUE APRIL 25

FOR REPLACING ONE OR TWO OF YOUR SCORES DUE LAST DAY OF  
CLASS

1. DESCRIBE AQUINAS' VIEW OF THE COMING TOGETHER OF FAITH AND REASON IN THE SUMMA CONTRA GENTILES
  
- 2 WHAT IS AVICENNA'S ARGUMENT FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

1. de Magistro Evodius starts out saying what about language

2. Describe Aquinas' 5<sup>th</sup> way that reason can demonstrate the existence of God

3 In Aquinas describe to first principle of natural law

4 Describe Bonaventure's 2nd stage in the mind's journey to God



5. What is one of Saadia's 4 arguments for the world being created

6. Describe Maimonides' view on whether the world is created

7. describe Avicenna's distinction between the necessary and the possible

8. How does Averroes argue that the law makes philosophy necessary

MID TERM Philosophy 3110 Medieval Philosophy  
ABOUT A PAGE FOR EACH ANSWER

- 1 compare Augustine's idea of free will in his debate with the pelagians with that of Pelagius
- 2 describe Aquinas' understanding of knowledge as abstraction
- 3 describe the distinction between natural law and human law in Aquinas
- 4 describe Saadia's distinction between laws of reason and those of revelation
5. describe Maimonides argument about why God cannot be said to have any essential attributes

Final Exam Philosophy 3110 Medieval Philosophy DUE APRIL 29 BY 5 PM

EITHER AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT OR IN MY BOX M 204

1. Describe the difference between univocal, analogical, and equivocal use of language with respect to God and humanity
- 2 What is the learner's paradox and what is Augustine's solution
- 3 How does Maimonides make a decision between the view that the world is created or that it is eternal
4. What is Avicenna's solution to the problem of the creation or eternity of the world
5. Why does Averroes hold that philosophy is not for everyone

Grading on the 2 page papers

Spelling error --2

Grammar error --2

Organization --4

Clarity --5

Answering the question --7

EACH PAPER IS WORTH 100 POINTS  
THE MIDTERN AND FINAL ARE WORTH 150 POINTS  
WITH THE 40 POINTS

TOTAL POINTS ARE 940

GRADE CURVE

A 940—890

A- 889—830

B+ 829—800

B 799—750

B-- 749—710

C+ 709—680

C 679—640

## Illumination—Augustine's Argument

- 1 I can come to know from experience only something that can be found in experience
2. Absolute unity cannot be found in experience
3. Therefore, I cannot come to know absolute unity from experience
4. Whatever I know, but cannot come to know from experience, I came to know from a source that is not in this world of experiences
5. I know absolute unity
6. Therefore, I came to know absolute unity from a source that is not in this world of experiences



Abstraction—Aquinas' argument ( also Aristotle )

- 1 I know from experience everything my active intellect is able to extract from experience
2. But my active intellect is able to extract from experience the concept of unity, since we all experience each singular thing as being one, distinct from another
3. Therefore, I know unity from experience by abstraction
4. Whenever I know something from experience by abstraction, I know both the thing whose concept is abstracted and its limiting conditions, from which its concept is abstracted
5. Therefore, I know both unity and its limiting conditions from which its concept is abstracted
6. But whenever I know something and its limiting conditions, and I can conceive of it without its limiting conditions( and this is precisely what happens in abstraction), I can conceive of its absolute unlimited realization
7. Therefore, I can conceive of the absolute realization of unity, based on the concept of unity I acquired from experience by abstraction
8. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to have a preliminary knowledge of absolute unity before all experience from a source other than this world of experiences

Medieval Philosophy Take Home Mid-Term

DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 22

About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page per question

1. Describe the 3 concepts of freedom at work in Augustine's anti-pelagian writings
2. Describe Aristotle's four causes
3. Describe Aquinas' 4 types of law
4. Describe the 2 forms of the design argument and show which one is found in Aquinas

Take Home Final Philosophy 3110 Medieval Philosophy

1. Explain Maimonides view of what a “prophet” is.
2. Show how Avicenna can believe that he has at one time demonstrated that the world was created by God and that it is, nevertheless, eternal .
3. How does Avicenna combine the idea of illumination and the idea of abstraction in his theory of knowledge ?
4. How does Averroes show that philosophy has virtually no limits in the Islamic community ?
5. How does Averroes understanding of the nature of the soul differ from the traditional religious view?
6. What is the difference between realism and nominalism ?

DUE TUESDAY MAY 3 BY 5 PM.