

## **MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY - 29594 - PHIL 3552 - R01**

**10:00 am - 11:15 am TF, KE 209**

Gyula Klima

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### **Course description**

This course provides a systematic, introductory survey of medieval philosophy from Augustine to the emergence of late-medieval nominalism. The organization of the material will follow the organization of my textbook (see below), i.e., along the lines of the system of philosophical disciplines as medieval philosophers conceived of it. The chronological order of the issues discussed is provided both by the general introduction and by the ordering of the material within the disciplinary blocks. Accordingly, after a general introduction describing the historical and theoretical significance, scope, chronology, major figures, problems, trends, methods, schools, characteristic genres and institutional structures of medieval philosophy, we first delve into medieval logic (including some epistemology and philosophy of science), next we move on to natural philosophy and metaphysics, culminating in natural theology, and finish with practical philosophy, i.e., meta-ethics, ethics, and philosophy of law.

### **Readings:**

*Medieval Philosophy: Essential Readings with Commentary*, (MP) Ed.: G. Klima, et al., Blackwell, 2007, ISBN: 9781405135658

*Individually assigned readings based on students' individual interests*

*Auxiliary materials available online*

### **Requirements:**

Attendance, participation in the discussions, 3 in-class tests, reports on individual readings, and a written final

## Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic (Reading; part, section)</b>
01/17	Why study medieval philosophy? (General Intro)
01/20	Philosophy, Theology, Logic and the Sciences (I, Intro, 1-3)
01/24	Universals I ( <u>SEP</u> , <u>Forms</u> )
01/27	Universals II ( <u>SEP</u> I, 4-5, <u>Nominalism</u> )
01/31	Universals III (I, 7-8; <u>SD Intro</u> )
02/03	Illumination vs. Abstraction (I, 9-13)
02/07	Knowledge and Skepticism I (I, 14-18)
02/10	Preparation for the test
02/14	<b>Test #1</b>
02/17	Natural Philosophy (II, Intro, 19-23)
02/24	<b>No class (Rome conference)</b>
02/28	Human Nature, Human Soul I (II, 24-26)
03/03	Human Nature, Human Soul II (II, 27-28)
03/07	Metaphysics I (II, 29-30)
03/10	Metaphysics II (II, 31)
03/21	God's existence (II, 32-33, 34: 266-271)
03/24	Divine Simplicity (II, 34: 271-302)
03/28	<b>Test #2</b>
03/31	Discussion of the test
04/04	<u>Being and goodness</u> (III, Intro, 35-38) <u>De Bono</u>
04/07	Freedom of the Will (39-40) (III, 41-42, <u>Augustine</u> , <u>Anselm</u> )
04/11	Moral Goodness, Virtues and Happiness (III, 43-44)
04/18	Divine Law, Natural Law, Positive Law (III, 45-46)
04/21	<u>Medieval meta-ethics</u> (contrast: <u>Speciesism</u> – Singer)
04/25	<b>Test #3</b>
04/28	Discussion of the test
05/02	Preparation for the final
<b>Finals</b>	May 9-16