

Module Title:	Medieval Philosophy
Module Code:	405PMEP
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM PhD

Module Aims:

- To introduce students to medieval philosophy and philosophers
- To facilitate thoughtful and respectful dialogue on important philosophical, religious and historical issues
- To gain knowledge of the most important thinkers and ideas of the Medieval period
- To show the importance of the contribution of the Medieval thinkers to the history of philosophy

Module Content

This module will focus on the history of Medieval Philosophy from Augustine to Ockham. We will discuss figures from the Medieval tradition, including Augustine, Scottus Eruigena, Avicenna, Maimonides, Alexander of Hales, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Scotus and Ockham. We will be particularly concerned to examine the manner in which these philosophers confronted and assimilated Aristotelian philosophy and the primary philosophical preoccupations of the Medieval period especially the debate on Universals how they anticipate certain dimensions of modern philosophy.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of Medieval philosophy and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of that philosophy and major medieval philosophers.
2. Think and work creatively and intellectually and be stimulated in their search for useful knowledge and insight into the endeavours of Medieval philosophy and its practical applications.
3. Critically reflect, assess and offer problem solving solutions to aspects of their work both in this area of study and others by adopting a systematic philosophical approach.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through a variety of teaching methods: delivered lectures, question/discussion, power point presentation, philosophical text, response and discussion, problem setting and possible solutions from students, presentations by students (with feedback from peers), at least one of the presentations will involve the students working in groups.

Assessment:

The module will be assessed through a variety of means ranging from essays, seminar, powerpoint presentation of topic by students, taped oral examination. It is also possible to combine these assessment methods e.g. 2,500 essay + PPP+ oral exam or 2,500 essay + 1 hour seminar by student or two 2,500 word essays. Or a text selection from one of the medieval Philosophers with a critique by the student.

Indicative Essay Titles

1. Outline the Problem of Universals in Medieval Philosophy and select TWO medieval philosophers who proposed solutions to it.
2. Compare Anselm's Ontological Proof for the existence of God and the Five Ways of St. Thomas Aquinas. Which is the more persuasive for you and why?
3. How St. Thomas and Duns Scotus deal with the problem of knowledge of God *in statu isto* and offer a critical assessment of either.
4. Is Ockham right in his assertion that Universals are simply terms applied to non real concepts?

Illustrative Bibliography

- Armstrong, A. H., ed. *The Cambridge History of Later Greek & Early Medieval Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. . 1970.
- Copleston, F., *A History of Philosophy*. Vol. II: *Medieval Philosophy: From Augustine to Duns Scotus*. Westminster, Md.: The Newman Press. 1950.
- Copleston, F., *A History of Philosophy*. Vol. III: *Late Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy*. Westminster, Md.: The Newman Press. 1953.
- Dronke, P., ed. *A History of Twelfth-Century Western Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1988.
- Gilson, É., *History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages*. New York: Random House. 1955.
- Gracia, J. E., and T. Noone *A Companion to Philosophy in the Middle Ages*. Blackwell Companions to Philosophy. Oxford: Blackwell Publications. 2003.

- Henry, D. P., "Medieval Philosophy." *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. New York: Macmillan. Vol. 5, pp. 253–58. 1967
- Inglis, J., ed. *Medieval Philosophy and the Classical Tradition: In Islam, Judaism, and Christianity*. London–New York: Routledge. 2002
- Knowles, D., *The Evolution of Medieval Thought*. New York: Vintage Books. 1964
- Koterski, J. W., S.J. *An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy: Basic Concepts*. Chichester: Wiley–Blackwell, 2009.
- Kretzmann, N., et al., ed. *The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy: From the Rediscovery of Aristotle to the Disintegration of Scholasticism, 1100–1600*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1982.
- Leff, G., *Medieval Thought: St. Augustine to Ockham*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. 1958.
- Luscombe, D. E., *Medieval Thought*. History of Western Philosophy, vol. 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1997.
- MacDonald, S. and Kretzmann, N., "Medieval Philosophy." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. London: Routledge. Vol. 6, pp. 269–77. 1998.
- Marenbon, J., ed. *The Routledge History of Philosophy*, vol. III: "The Middle Ages." London: Routledge. 1998.
- Maurer, A., *Medieval Philosophy*. 2nd ed. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. 1982.
- McGrade, A. S., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. . 2003
- Spade, P.V., "Medieval Philosophy." In Anthony Kenny, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chap. 2, pp. 55–105. 1994.
- Weinberg, J. R., *A Short History of Medieval Philosophy*. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press. 1964.