

Module Title:	The Spirituality of John Duns Scotus
Module Code:	709 FSDS
Level:	7
Credit rating:	20 credits
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	20
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, PhD

Module Aims:

This module aims to examine the fundamental architecture of the metaphysics of Duns Scotus and to demonstrate its importance both in the 13th century and in contemporary thought.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. explore in detail the fundamental tenets of Scotus's metaphysics
2. show Scotus's contributions to 13th century metaphysical debates
3. examine the content and semantic structure of his arguments especially the Parisian proof
4. show the importance and relevance of Scotus for contemporary metaphysics
5. read and comprehend the complex metaphysical ideas in Duns Scotus
6. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Scotus's approach to the structuring of his arguments
7. show the place of Dun Scotus within the overall ethos of 13th Century metaphysician debates
8. show the influence and importance of Duns Scotus for areas of philosophical concern today such as Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Man.

Indicative Module Content:

The module focuses its main attentions on Scotus's understanding of the proper object of metaphysics, for Questions on the Metaphysics of Aristotle, univocity of Being, the Parisian proof for the existence of a First Principle from *Reportata Parisiensis* 1 A, Lectura 39, the formal and modal distinctions, and the principle of differentiation with common natures [*haecceitas*]. The module will show Scotus' engagement with some of the complex problems of 13th century metaphysics and demonstrate his unique solutions to these problems. It will then move to show Scotus' importance in the history of European ideas and his relevance for areas in contemporary metaphysics such as ontology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language and philosophical anthropology [more commonly called Philosophy of Man] and why Scotus is still both an important and potent metaphysician.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The basic format of presentation will be weekly lectures systematically treating the subject matter as described in the Indicative Module Content. Students are given specific weekly reading assignments as well as directed toward extra-curricular reading proposed by the instructor. Research interests are quickly identified and tutorial sessions, depending on individual needs of the students, arranged for clarification and direction, inclusive of suggested extra-curricular reading. Within the classroom context of lectures, active participation of students in terms of questions and, especially, discussion is strongly encouraged as a primary way of developing analytical skills, critical thinking, and clarity of expression.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed by the writing of one essay of 4,000 words.

Illustrative Bibliography:

Primary texts in Latin

Cuestiones Quodlibetales. In Obras del Doctor Sutil, Juan Duns Escoto. Ed. Felix Alluntis. Madrid: Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos, 1963.

Opera Omnia. ("The Wadding edition") Lyon, 1639; reprinted Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1968.

Opera Omnia. ("The Vatican edition") Civitas Vaticana: Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1950-.

Opera Philosophica. St. Bonaventure, NY: The Franciscan Institute, 1997-.

Primary texts in English translation

Spade, Paul Vincent. (1994). *Five Texts on the Mediaeval Problem of Universals.* Hackett.

Wolter, Allan B., OFM and Felix Alluntis. (1975) *John Duns Scotus, God and Creatures: The Quodlibetal Questions* The Catholic University of America Press

Wolter, Allan B., OFM. (1986). *Duns Scotus on the Will and Morality.* The Catholic University of America Press.

Wolter, Allan B., OFM. (1987). *Duns Scotus: Philosophical Writings.* Hackett

Secondary literature

Cross, Richard. (1999). *Duns Scotus.* OUP

Day, Sebastian. (1947). *Intuitive Cognition: A Key to the Significance of the Later Scholastics.* The Franciscan Institute

Frank, William A. and Allan B. Wolter (1995). *Duns Scotus: Metaphysician.* Purdue University Press

Williams, Thomas (2003). (In Williams): *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

____ Cross, Richard. "Philosophy of Mind."

____ King, Peter. "Scotus on Metaphysics."

_____Pasnau, Robert.

"Cognition."

Wolter, Allan B., OFM.
(1990).

The Philosophical Theology of John Duns Scotus.
Ed. Marilyn McCord Adams. Ithaca, NY:

Cornell
University
Press

_____ "Duns Scotus on Intuition, Memory, and
Our Knowledge of Individuals."

Journals

Williams, Thomas. (1995).
425-445.

"How Scotus Separates Morality from Happiness,"
American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly 69 (1995):

Williams (1998).

"The Unmitigated Scotus,"
Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie 80: 162-181.

Williams, Thomas. (2000).

"A Most Methodical Lover: On Scotus's Arbitrary Creator,"
Journal of the History of Philosophy 38 (2000): 169-202.