

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Humanities & Philosophy
Spring 2021

PHIL 2173: Medieval Philosophy

CRN: 25117/28997

M, W, F - 2:00-2:50 PM

Liberal Arts South, Rm. 264

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Green

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Office: Liberal Arts North, 204C

Office Hours: T,Th 9:30AM-11:00AM; W 3:00-5:00PM (and by appointment)

Course Description:

“Medieval Philosophy is a survey of the history of philosophy in the West from the end of the ancient period until the Renaissance.” (from UCO Course Catalog)

This course focuses on a long period in the history of philosophy, which extended from the decline of the Roman Empire to the development of the Renaissance (c. 200 CE to 1400 CE). Philosophers in this period operated across a vast geographical range, from Spain to Afghanistan and Scandinavia to Africa. Their discussions took place under the twin influences of pagan Greek philosophy and Abrahamic religion, and much of their work deals with issues that arise when these two influences intersected.

Our primary focus will be to try to grasp the breadth and diversity of this long period of philosophical history. We will survey as many of the important figures in Medieval Philosophy as we can, at a fairly rapid pace. Some of these figures are well-known, and could merit an entire course on their own. Others are under-appreciated and often ignored, a mistake we will try to avoid.

This class will focus on metaphysics and epistemology in the Medieval Period. We will continually revisit a key set of topics, including:

- Whether faith and reason are independent, compatible or in competition
- Whether knowledge can be achieved through scripture, mystical experiences, or revelation
- Whether it is possible to know that deities exist, or what properties they have
- Whether the world was created or is eternal
- Whether free will is compatible with divine providence and/or divine foreknowledge
- Whether universal properties exist independently or depend on divine or human minds

In addition to mastering course content, we will focus on developing the following philosophical skills:

- Reading and understanding conceptually difficult texts
- Uncovering and identifying assumptions and presuppositions (yours and others')
- Communicating complex ideas clearly and efficiently
- Drawing subtle conceptual and definitional distinctions
- Constructing and critically evaluating logical arguments

Prerequisites: ENG 1113 and 3 hours of Philosophy

Course Materials

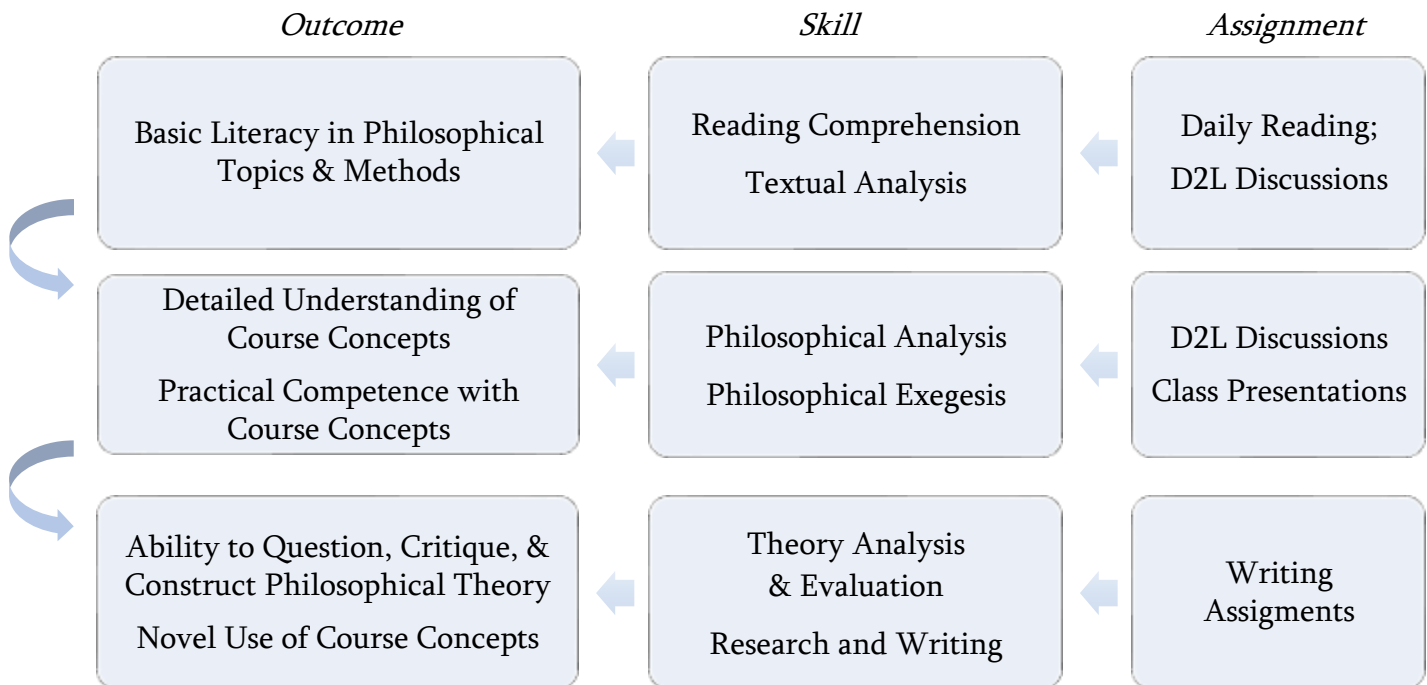
The required course material for this class is collected in a coursepack available for purchase at [APMOK](#) on 500 E. 2nd St (right across from campus). This is a **required text** for class: you must bring your hard copy of the reading to class *every* session. It will cost about \$30.

In addition, supplementary reading material will be posted on D2L, with the relevant date in the file name. These files are posted for your convenience and accessibility. They are not a substitute for the course pack! It is very difficult to read/process this material when reading from a screen (Seriously: [the research is consistent](#) on this point).

Learning Objectives & Outcomes

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1) Students will learn about the major figures and topics in Medieval Philosophy.
- 2) Students will read, analyze, and synthesize key philosophical texts and communicate about them in writing.
- 3) Students will develop their ability to express difficult ideas in writing clearly and in a professional style.
- 4) Students will analyze, appraise, and formally symbolize arguments.

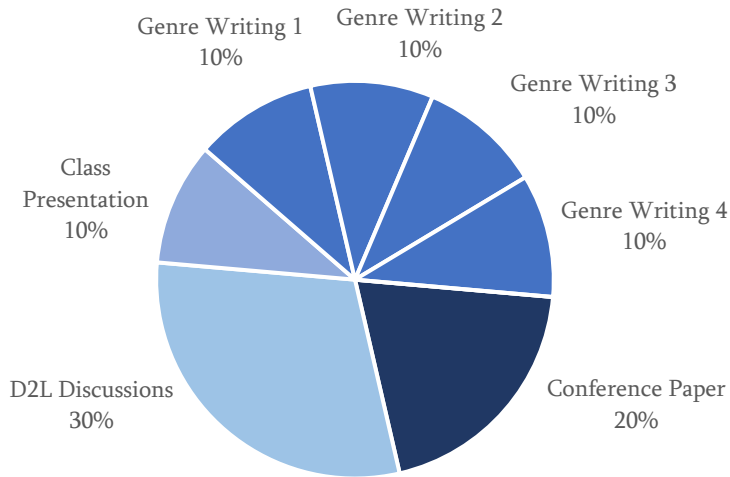


Transformational Learning Outcomes:

The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to Transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. Transformative learning goals (the “Central Six”) have been identified as: *Discipline Knowledge*; *Leadership*; *Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities*; *Service Learning and Civic Engagement*; *Global and Cultural Competencies*; and *Health and Wellness*.

This course addresses three of the University’s transformative learning goals:

- *Discipline Knowledge*, by investigating some core questions and subfields of philosophy
- *Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities*, by developing original ideas through a variety of genres of academic writing



Grade Scale:

100.0-90.0	= A
89.9-80.0	= B
79.9-70.0	= C
69.9-60.0	= D
59.9 – 0.0	= F

Assignments

Reading

This will be a reading-intensive course, in both quality and quantity. You will have an average of 26 pp. of reading per class, with a range of 14-30 pp, for a total of just over 1000 pages. This material will be very difficult, and you will undoubtedly have to read it more than once.

D2L Discussions

We will have a number of themed discussion boards on D2L, in two broad categories:

- Lecture Prompts, to post observations and questions about the reading that I will use to shape each day's class discussion
- Discussion Prompts, to learn from each other, by asking questions, connecting the dots between texts, revisit lingering or reoccurring issues, etc.

You will make 15 posts in both categories of the course of the semester (roughly 1 per week each). Each post is worth 1 pt. (= 1% of the final grade), 30 pts total.

Class Presentations

Each student will give one in-class presentation, in which they lead the discussion on that day's material. This can take a variety of forms: a formal lecture, an open-ended discussion, a Q&A session, etc. It is also an option to prepare and share written resources to give to the class as the bulk of your presentation.¹ It is worth 10 pts. (= 10% of the final grade).

Genre Writing

Medieval Philosophy was written in a variety of genres (letters, diaries, dialogues, textual commentaries, treatises, *quaestiones*, etc.). You will have a four short writing assignments where you adopt these genres and use them to write about the central topics of the class.¹ These are worth 10 pts each (= 10% of the final grade), 40 pts. total.

Conference Paper

Your work will culminate in a 3000 word academic paper, the sort one might write for a conference or undergraduate journal. The main task of this paper is to participate in a debate among scholars relevant to one of the figures or topics we read in the class. This paper will require using peer-reviewed books and articles to clearly summarize this debate and then make a persuasive, informed contribution to it. It is worth 20 pts (= 20% of the final grade).

¹ More details on this assignment will be provided in a separate handout.

Grading Policies

Attendance

Attendance is not, strictly speaking, part of your grade, and I will not take attendance in class. Students enrolled in the in-person section of the class may attend virtually at any time, no questions asked.

Extra Credit

I do not typically offer extra credit assignments, though I will occasionally give extra quiz points for things like taking evaluation surveys. Don't bug me about this: focus instead on doing well on the work you already have.

Rounding

The letter grade cut-off for each grade is 90.0, 80.0, etc. I may choose to round up in exceptional cases, if (i) I feel you've done better than your score suggests, and (ii) you do not have excessive incomplete or missing assignments. This is a courtesy, not an entitlement.

Appeals

I am more than happy to talk to you about low grades, and regrade your assignment if merited (but note the risk that the second grade could be lower). However, I consider asking for a grade increase for non-performance reasons (e.g. to keep a scholarship or prevent your parents from being mad) to be academic misconduct, because you are asking for me to give you a grade you did not earn. So don't ask.

Late Work & Make-Ups

With the exception of class presentations, all assignments for this class will be online, through D2L. Class Presentations will be scheduled in advance and delivered in real time in class (in person or remotely). It is your responsibility to be prepared to present on your chosen day.

D2L Discussions have two kinds of deadlines. Lecture Prompts need to be made by 12:00 PM before class, so that I have time to look at them in advance. Discussion Prompts have no firm deadline. In both cases, however, you should do at least one post per week, sometimes more, in order to get all your posts in by the end of the class.

Writing assignments will be submitted online, with instructions and deadlines circulated well in advance, so there should be no need for make-ups. But if you find yourself in an emergency situation that prevents you from submitting your work on time, it is your responsibility to get in contact with me ASAP to work something out. Otherwise, a 1-point late penalty will be deducted once every 24 hours after the submission deadline. A 2-point late penalty will be deducted once every 24 hours after the submission deadline for the Intervention Plan.

Excused Absences

The University considers absences for the following reasons excused:

- travel considered part of the instructional program of the university
- invited participation in activities directly and officially sponsored by the university
- jury duty or military obligations
- serious illness, medical condition, pregnant and parenting students' rights (as outlined in Title IX), accident, or injury
- death or serious illness in immediate family
- religious observances. *Note: a list of religious observances must be submitted to the instructor sometime in the first two weeks of the semester.*

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

Any student who needs extra time or resources to do their best work due to a physical, cognitive or emotional condition may qualify for academic accommodations. You should consult Disability Support Services for further information: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/dss/>

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism Syllabus Statement: Academic dishonesty includes plagiarizing, cheating, turning in counterfeit papers, stealing academic materials, knowingly falsifying academic documents, accessing confidential academic records without authorization, disclosing confidential academic information without authorization, and turning in the same work to more than one class without the express permission of the instructors involved. Any student deemed to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action up to and/or including expulsion from the University. To help ensure academic integrity, faculty may employ a variety of tools including, but not limited to, university-sanctioned Turnitin.com. More information concerning this policy can be found in Section IV of the UCO Student Code of Conduct located at: <https://www.uco.edu/offices/student-conduct/files/codeofconduct-webfile.pdf>.

Given that much of this course is devoted to intellectual and moral virtues, it should be no surprise that is also has high standards for academic conduct. You are expected to consult and understand the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy (detailed in the Student Info Sheet linked below); participation in this class constitutes an agreement to follow this policy.

My own policy is this: it is always better to ask for help than to cheat. Always. Cheating takes more work, with worse results, than simply attempting the assignment, even if you phone it in. If you are confused at any point about what constitutes academic dishonesty, just ask: I'm here to help. However, if you are caught engaging in academic misconduct, I will pursue whatever maximum penalties the University may apply, from a 0 to an assignment to an F for the course to expulsion from UCO.

Title IX

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D. For more information about your options, including reporting and confidential resources, please visit: <http://www.uco.edu/central/title-ix/index.asp>.

Student Information Sheet

Additional important university policies and information can be found here: <https://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/student-info-sheet.pdf>

Face Mask Policy

The University of Central Oklahoma has implemented recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) pertaining to COVID-19 on university campuses and will require students to cover their nose and mouth with an approved cloth face cover or disposable surgicaltype face mask when on UCO properties. This means all students will be required to wear a face cover at all times in classrooms, hallways and public spaces. Reasonable accommodations may be available for students with diagnosed medical conditions, and must be coordinated through the UCO office of Disability Support Services. UCO will provide every student a UCO-branded cloth cover at the beginning of the semester and a limited supply of disposable masks will be available in each classroom building for those occasions when students or visitors forget their personal cloth face cover. Students who refuse to wear a cloth face cover or repeatedly forget their face cover will be subject to disciplinary action under the UCO Student Handbook and to the consequences associated with any loss of instruction. Remember slowing the spread of the virus is a community effort and will take everyone’s cooperation and support.

Code of Student Conduct Violation and Sanction Options:

During the public health crisis presented by COVID-19, the University of Central Oklahoma will implement recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) pertaining to university campuses and the guidance and recommendations of other public health agencies, and will require each student to cover their nose and mouth with a face cover when around others on UCO properties. This can include cloth or disposable/surgical masks or gaiters that cover the nose and mouth. Bandanas, t-shirts, shields without a mask, or other items tied around the face do not satisfy this requirement. All students will be required to wear a face cover at all times in classrooms, hallways, and public spaces. Reasonable accommodations may be available for students with diagnosed medical conditions, and must be coordinated through the UCO Office of Disability Support Services. Students who refuse to wear a cloth face cover or repeatedly forget their own face cover will be subject to disciplinary action under the UCO Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.

If and when the CDC and local public health authorities provide guidance regarding the public health crisis and that masks are no longer warranted, UCO will communicate to all campus community members to provide an update on the requirement of wearing masks.

NOTE: Warning letter is issued to student for first violation, student conduct meeting and sanctions are not required until second violation.

First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Notice of Record to Be Filed is sent to student with notification of the policy, resources regarding wearing mask, prevention of the spread of COVID-19, and the warning that if violation occurs again, further disciplinary action will be taken. The letter would be documented in Maxient. First offense would not require a conduct meeting.	Notice of Allegations is sent to student requiring them to meet with a conduct investigator; notice letter will include allegations and student information packet If student is found responsible the sanctions would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disciplinary Probation for up to two semesters• Educational Sanction – may include, but are not limited to: Behavior Reflection Essay with guided prompt.	Notice of Allegations is sent to student requiring them to meet with a conduct investigator; notice letter will include allegations and student information packet. If student is found responsible the sanctions may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University Suspension• Remove from Housing

Recording Policy:

Due to limitations on the disclosure of personally identifiable information under certain federal privacy laws, students are not permitted to record class sessions or allow non-students to view online class sessions. Students registered with the UCO office of Disability Support Services may request accommodation of the prohibition and must present a copy of the DSS letter to the instructor.

Reading Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Figure</u>	<u>Text</u>
1.20	-	Syllabus; Adamson (2016) "20 Rules for History of Philosophy"
1.22	-	Marrone (2003) "Medieval philosophy in context"
1.25	- Plato	"Plato's Middle Metaphysics & Epistemology" (SEP)
1.27	- Aristotle	"Aristotle's Metaphysics" (SEP)
1.29	- Stoics	"Stoicism" (SEP)
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2.01	- Plotinus	<i>Enneads</i> 6.9 (8); 5.1 (16); 1.8 (5)
2.03	- Porphyry	<i>Eisagoge</i>
2.05	- Iamblichus	<i>Reply to Porphyry</i>
2.08	- Tertullian	<i>De Anima</i> (1-5, 7, 10, 21-22, 26, 39-41)
2.10	- Origen	<i>On First Principles</i> 1.1-6 (excerpts)
2.12	- Gregory of Nyssa	<i>Life of Moses</i> (1-15, 152-263, 305-231)
2.15	- Augustine	<i>De Magistro</i> (2-7, 11-12)
2.17	- "	<i>De Libero Arbitrio</i> Bk. I
2.19	- "	<i>Enchiridion</i> (1,3-8, 18, 21-22, 27-28)
2.22	- Proclus	<i>Elements of Theology & Platonic Theology</i>
2.24	- Damascius	<i>Problems and Solutions</i> pt. I (excerpts)
2.26	- Boethius	<i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> V
3.01	- John Philoponus	<i>Against Proclus</i> IX (excerpts)
3.03	- Pseudo-Dionysius	<i>The Divine Names</i> I-II, X, XII-XIII
3.05	- John Scotus Eriugena	<i>Periphyseon</i> Bk. I (excerpts)
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3.08	- al-Kindi	<i>On First Philosophy</i> I, II, IV
3.10	- al-Razi	<i>On the Five Eternals & Doubts about Galen</i>
3.12	- al-Farabi	<i>On the Principles of Existing Things</i>
3.15	- ibn Sina	<i>Book of Healing: Metaphysics</i>
3.17	- "	<i>De Anima</i>
3.19	- al-Ghazali	<i>Incoherence of the Philosophers</i> , IV-VI
3.22	- ibn Rushd	<i>Decisive Treatise</i>
3.24	- "	<i>Incoherence of the Incoherence</i>
3.26	- "	<i>Exposition; On the Unity; On Divine Attributes</i>
3.29	- Saadia Gaon	<i>The Book of Beliefs and Convictions</i>
3.31	-	--- Liberal Arts Symposium - Classes Preempted---
4.02	- Solomon ibn Gabirol	<i>Fons Vitae</i> Bk I
4.05	- Maimonides	<i>Guide for the Perplexed</i> I.xxxiv-lxix
4.07	- "	<i>Guide for the Perplexed</i> II.xiii-xxv
4.09	- Gersonides	<i>The Wars of the Lord</i> , I, III-V
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4.12	- Anselm	<i>Proslogion</i>
4.14	- Abelard	<i>Glosses on Porphyry</i>
4.16	- Bonaventure	<i>Mind's Road to God</i>
4.19	- Aquinas	<i>Summa contra Gentiles</i> I.1-8
4.21	- "	<i>Summa theologiae</i> I.Q2-3, 6, 8
4.23	- "	<i>Summa theologiae</i> I.Q22-23
4.26	- Duns Scotus	<i>Man's Natural Knowledge of God</i>
4.28	- William of Ockham	<i>Summa totius logicae</i> (excerpts)
4.30	- John Wyclif	<i>On Universals</i>