

**PL 220  
MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY  
SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 2014**

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**John Carroll University  
Division V Core Requirement**

**Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kaye**  
**Office: Philosophy Department (AD, B11)**  
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**Office Hours:** Please send an email if you would like to request an appointment.

**Class Meetings:** None. This is a 100% online asynchronous course. You will need access to The Internet, your JCU email account, and Blackboard. Help with these, if needed, may be obtained by contacting the IT Help Desk during normal business hours (216-397-3005) .

**Course Work:** Three exams, each worth 10%  
One formal paper 11%  
One peer review, worth 3%  
Four dialogue questions, together worth 4%  
13 quizzes, each worth 4%

**Required Texts:** *Critical Thinking* by Sharon M. Kaye (Oneworld, 2009)  
*Medieval Philosophy* by Sharon M. Kaye (Oneworld, 2008)

**Course Description:**

This course surveys the central problem areas of medieval philosophy, which developed in Europe and the Middle East after the dissolution of ancient philosophy and before the rise of modern philosophy. The authors we will be reading span the thousand years between 400 and 1400. Although most of our discussion will focus on Augustine, Aquinas, and Ockham, we will also see how other medieval thinkers contributed to the development of Western thought.

Our goal in this course will be two-fold: first, to learn how some of the most important minds in history thought through philosophical problems; second, to think them through for ourselves. Our method will be analytic. By the end of the course you should be able to identify arguments, evaluate them, and construct supporting and counter-arguments of your own.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will write knowledgably about central aspects of and problems within the history of philosophy, as well as about philosophy's major historical figures.
2. Students will develop the skills necessary to critically evaluate arguments and evidence.
3. Students will understand the relationship between philosophy and other academic disciplines.

**Evaluation:**

Your final grade will be calculated in accordance with standard university letter grades.

A = 93 and above    A- = 90-92    B+ = 88-89    B = 82-87    B- = 80-81  
C+ = 78-79    C = 72-77    C- = 70-71    D+ = 68-69    D = 62-67    D- = 60-61  
F = 59 and below

### **Quizzes:**

There are 13 chapter quizzes for this course. They will appear under Assignments on Blackboard at noon on the appointed day (see timetable below). They are open-book tests to be taken on your computer from whatever location you please. You will need to read and study the chapters carefully in order to be able to answer the questions accurately within the time limit. Each quiz contains 20 multiple choice or true-false questions and must be completed in 30 minutes.

### **Exams:**

There are three exams for this course; all are required in order to pass. They will appear under Assignments on Blackboard at noon on the appointed day (see timetable below). They are open-book tests to be taken on your computer from whatever location you please. You will need to read and study the chapters carefully in order to be able to answer the questions accurately within the time limit. The exams have 40 multiple choice or true-false questions as well as 1 written question (one paragraph). They must be completed in 75 minutes.

### **Formal Paper:**

There is one formal paper for this course. It should be 5-7 double-spaced pages long. Follow the instructions in the document called "How to Write a Philosophy Paper," which is posted on Blackboard under Assignments. The prompt for the paper is this:

Did the universe have a beginning?

As you will read in chapter 5 of your *Medieval Philosophy* book, this is a controversial issue. Take a position and defend it. There is no one right answer. Use the material in chapter 5 to make your case. Use the argument strategies outlined in chapter 5 of your *Critical Thinking* book. You should also use at least 3 outside sources. You will be graded on the basis of how well you defend your answer.

The paper is due by noon on the day listed below on the timetable. Late papers are automatically penalized 3% per day. To submit it, post it to the Discussion Board on Blackboard under the thread marked POST YOUR FORMAL PAPER HERE.

### **Peer Review:**

Read the paper posted before yours on the Discussion Board and write a one-page, double-spaced peer review of it. The review should contain one paragraph discussing things the paper did well and another paragraph discussing things that could be improved. You should comment

on both form (organization, grammar, wording, etc) and content (strength of argument, use of examples, plausibility of objection, etc). Post your peer review as a “reply” to the posted document. It is due by noon the following day.

### Dialogue Questions:

I look forward to keeping in close contact with you through email. Please feel free to email me your thoughts about the material at any time. To open a line of dialogue between us, I will email you 4 open-ended questions throughout the course. Think about the question, connect it to your life, and email me a one-page double-spaced response to it by noon the following day.

## Timetable

Date	Reading	Assignment Due
<b>WEEK ONE</b>		
<b>Monday July 21</b>	Syllabus  <i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Introduction  <i>Critical Thinking</i> Introduction  “How To Write a Philosophy Paper” (posted on Blackboard under Assignments)	FIRST DIALOGUE QUESTION
<b>Tuesday July 22</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 1	MP QUIZ 1
<b>Wednesday July 23</b>	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 1	CT QUIZ 1
<b>Thursday July 24</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 2	MP QUIZ 2
<b>Friday July 25</b>	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 2	CT QUIZ 2
<b>WEEK TWO</b>		
<b>Monday July 28</b>		EXAM 1 (Covers everything since the beginning.)  SECOND DIALOGUE QUESTION
<b>Tuesday July 29</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 3	MP QUIZ 3
<b>Wednesday July 30</b>	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 3	CT QUIZ 3

<b>Thursday July 31</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 4	MP QUIZ 4
<b>Friday August 1</b>	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 4	CT QUIZ 4
<b>Monday August 4</b>		
		EXAM 2 (Covers everything since last exam.)  THIRD DIALOGUE QUESTION
<b>Tuesday August 5</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 5	MP QUIZ 5
<b>Wednesday August 6</b>	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 5	CT QUIZ 5
<b>Thursday August 7</b>	Video: "Here Be Dragons" <a href="http://herebedragonsmovie.com/">http://herebedragonsmovie.com/</a>	VIDEO REFLECTION
<b>Friday August 8</b>		FORMAL PAPER
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>		
<b>Monday August 11</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 6	MP QUIZ 6
<b>Tuesday August 12</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 7	MP QUIZ 7
<b>Wednesday August 13</b>	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 8	MP QUIZ 8
<b>Thursday August 14</b>	Video: "Human Nature" on Blackboard under Assignments	VIDEO REFLECTION
<b>Friday August 15</b>		EXAM 3 (Covers everything since last exam except videos.)  FOURTH DIALOGUE QUESTION  COURSE EVALUATION