

Course Syllabus

PL 220

John Carroll University

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Division V Core Requirement

AN ONLINE COURSE

SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 2015

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kaye

Office: Philosophy Department (AD, B11)

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Class Meetings: None. This is a 100% online asynchronous course. You will need access to The Internet, your JCU email account, and Canvas. 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 with peer review, together worth 13%
Four dialogue questions, and two video reflections, together worth 5%
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 knowledgeably 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.

These outcomes are applications of the following university learning outcomes:

- 1 Demonstrate an integrative knowledge of human and natural worlds;
2. Develop habits of critical analysis and aesthetic appreciation;
3. Apply creative and innovative thinking.

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 are open-book tests to be taken on your computer from whatever location you please. They will be available for 24 hours on the day they are due. 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 Canvas on the appointed day (see timetable below). They are closed-book tests to be taken on your computer from whatever location you please. **YOU MUST USE THE LOCKDOWN BROWSER WITH VIDEO ON CANVAS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSULTING ANY AIDS.** 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 essay question. 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 Canvas under Assignments. The prompt for the paper is this:

If God reveals today that you will eat pizza tomorrow are you still free not to eat pizza tomorrow?

As you will read in your *Medieval Philosophy* book, this is connected to the problem of foreknowledge and free will. 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 "Formal Paper" under Assignments on Canvas. Compose it on your word processor and then cut and paste it into the canvas text box. The rubric posted there tells you how it will be graded.

Peer Review:

Read the paper Canvas assigns you 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). It is due by noon the following day.

Dialogue Questions and Video Reflections:

I look forward to keeping in close contact with you through Canvas and email. Please feel free to email me your thoughts about the material at any time. To open a line of dialogue between us, I have assigned 4 open-ended dialogue questions. Think about the question, connect it to your life, and submit (through the Canvas text box) a one-page double-spaced response. We will also watch two videos. Write your open-ended reflections about them on two-page, double-spaced page and submit them through the Canvas text box. (You can compose your answers in your word processor and then cut and paste them.) For each of these assignments, Canvas will assign

you a classmate's paper to "peer review." Read the paper and provide a 100-word reply, indicating how your paper agreed or disagreed. This will help you synthesize the material within a social framework.

Timetable

Date	Reading	Assignment Due
WEEK ONE		
Monday July 20	Syllabus <i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Introduction <i>Critical Thinking</i> Introduction "How To Write a Philosophy Paper" (posted on Canvas under Assignments)	FIRST DIALOGUE QUESTION due by midnight Complete worksheet through textbox under Canvas Assignments: "How to Write a Philosophy Paper"
Tuesday July 21	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 1	MP QUIZ 1
Wednesday July 22	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 1	CT QUIZ 1
Thursday July 23	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 2	MP QUIZ 2
Friday July 24	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 2	CT QUIZ 2
WEEK TWO		
Monday July 27		EXAM 1 (Covers everything since the beginning.)

		SECOND DIALOGUE QUESTION due by midnight
Tuesday July 28	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 3	MP QUIZ 3
Wednesday July 29	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 3	CT QUIZ 3
Thursday July 30	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 4	MP QUIZ 4
Friday July 31	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 4	CT QUIZ 4
Monday August 3		EXAM 2 (Covers everything since last exam.) THIRD DIALOGUE QUESTION due by midnight
Tuesday August 4	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 5	MP QUIZ 5
Wednesday August 5	<i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapter 5	CT QUIZ 5
Thursday August 6	Video: "Here Be Dragons" http://herebedragonsmovie.com/	VIDEO REFLECTION (A two-page, double- spaced, open-ended response to whatever

		you found most interesting in the video, due by midnight.)
Friday August 7		FORMAL PAPER
WEEK FOUR		
Monday August 10	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 6	MP QUIZ 6
Tuesday August 11	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 7	MP QUIZ 7
Wednesday August 12	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i> Chapter 8	MP QUIZ 8
Thursday August 13	Video: "Human Nature" on Canvas under Assignments	VIDEO REFLECTION (A two-page, double-spaced, open-ended response to whatever you found most interesting in the video, due by midnight.)
Friday August 14		EXAM 3 (Covers everything since last exam except videos.) FOURTH DIALOGUE QUESTION due by midnight COURSE EVALUATIONS

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Policy on Documentation and Accommodation of Disabilities:

In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability (learning, psychological, sensory, physical, or medical) you may be eligible to request accommodations from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). To make a request for accommodations, please contact SSD Director Allison West at (216) 397-4967 or visit the SSD office, located in Room 7A, on the garden (lower) level of the Administration Building. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register with SSD at the beginning of each semester. Only those accommodations approved by SSD will be recognized by your instructors. Please contact SSD if you have further questions.

2. Policy on Academic Honesty

For the full JCU policy on academic honesty, please refer students to the 2013-2015 Undergraduate Bulletin, pp. 110-112 or the Community Standards section of the Dean of Students Website (<http://sites.jcu.edu/deanofstudents/pages/community-standards/academic-honesty/>).

Academic honesty, expected of every student, is essential to the process of education and to upholding high ethical standards. Cheating, including plagiarism, inappropriate use of technology, or any other kind of unethical behavior, may subject the student to severe academic penalties, including dismissal.

All work submitted for evaluation in a course, including tests, term papers, and computer programs, must represent only the work of the student unless indicated otherwise.

Material taken from the work of others must be acknowledged. Materials submitted to fulfill requirements in one course may not be submitted in another course without prior approval of the instructor(s).

Concerns about the propriety of obtaining outside assistance and acknowledging sources should be addressed to the instructor of the course before the work commences and as necessary as the work proceeds.

3. Policy on Mutual Respect:

John Carroll University is committed to fostering ethical and moral values that are consistent with Jesuit and Catholic traditions. Among the central values of the University are the inherent dignities of every individual as well as the right of each person to hold and to express his or her viewpoint. When these views conflict it is the obligation of members of the community to respect other perspectives.

The University welcomes students, faculty, staff, and visitors from diverse backgrounds and it works to ensure that they will find the University environment free of discriminatory conduct. It is unacceptable and a violation of University policy to harass, abuse, or

discriminate against any person because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

4. Stop Bias:

John Carroll University is committed to fostering ethical and moral values that are consistent with Jesuit and Catholic traditions. Among the central values of the University are the inherent dignities of every individual as well as the right of each person to hold and to express his or her viewpoint. When these views conflict it is the obligation of members of the community to respect other perspectives.

The University welcomes students, faculty, staff, and visitors from diverse backgrounds and it works to ensure that they will find the University environment free of discriminatory conduct. It is unacceptable and a violation of University policy to harass, abuse, or discriminate against any person because of age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

Furthermore, each member of the JCU community is expected to take an active role in fostering an appreciation for diversity and inclusion and sending the message that bias-related acts will not be tolerated. "Bias" is defined as intentional or unintentional actions targeting a person because of a real or perceived aspect of that person's identity, including (though not limited to) age, gender, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or (dis)ability.

All bias incidents, including those occurring in the classroom, should be reported using the JCU Bias Reporting System at <http://sites.jcu.edu/bias/>.

Questions about the Bias Reporting System or bias incidents may be directed to Dr. Terry Mills, Assistant Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, at tmills@jcu.edu.