

Medieval Philosophy

Code: 100309
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500246 Philosophy	OB	2	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Jaume Mensa Valls

Prerequisites

There is no requirement

Objectives and Contextualisation

Medieval philosophy is a compulsory subject of the second year of the degree of Philosophy. The specific objectives of this subject are:

- To get a good knowledge of the main authors, and of the philosophical and scientists approaches and problems in the Medieval Age.
- To learn more about the two most significant authors of medieval philosophy: Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas.
- To obtain a general knowledge of the main medieval Catalan authors.
- To read, understand and interpret several texts by some studied authors.
- To reflect on some problems considered by thinkers at this time.
- To develop their own critical and self-critical thinking.
- To connect the contents of the subject with the content of other subjects of the degree.

Competences

- Analysing and summarising the main arguments of fundamental texts of philosophy in its various disciplines.
- Placing the most representative philosophical ideas and arguments of a period in their historical background and relating the most important authors of each period of any philosophical discipline.

- Recognising and interpreting topics and problems of philosophy in its various disciplines.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Thinking in a critical and independent manner on the basis of the specific topics, debates and problems of philosophy, both historically and conceptually.
- Using the symbology and procedures of the formal sciences in the analysis and building of arguments.

Learning Outcomes

1. Arguing about several issues and philosophical problems for the purpose of different works and the assessment of the results.
2. Carrying out a planning for the development of a subject-related work.
3. Demonstrating a personal stance over a problem or controversy of philosophical nature, or a work of philosophical research.
4. Discriminating the features that define the writer's place in the context of a problem and reorganising them in a consistent diagram.
5. Distinguishing and outlining the fundamental content of a philosophical text.
6. Documenting a philosophical issue and contrasting its sources.
7. Engaging in debates about philosophical historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
8. Establishing relationships between science, philosophy, art, religion, politics, etc.
9. Explaining aspects of the history of science by using the discipline's specific terminology.
10. Explaining the specific notions of the History of Philosophy.
11. Expressing both orally and in written form, the issues and basic problems of the philosophical tradition.
12. Indicating and discussing the main characteristics of the distinctive thought of a period and contextualizing them.
13. Indicating the main issues of the history of philosophy.
14. Producing an individual work that specifies the work plan and timing of activities.
15. Reading basic philosophical text thoroughly.
16. Reading thoroughly philosophical texts of the History of Philosophy.
17. Recognising, with a critical eye, philosophical referents of the past and present and assessing its importance.
18. Relating the various orders of the philosophical ideas of different authors and historical moments.
19. Rigorously building philosophical arguments.
20. Solving problems autonomously.
21. Summarising the topics and arguments exposed in a classical philosophical debate.
22. Using specialized knowledge acquired in an interdisciplinary context when debating.
23. Using suitable terminology when drawing up an academic text.

Content

BACKGROUND: AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO AND THE ANCIENT PHILOSOPHICAL LEGACY

1. Academic Philosophy*, Neoplatonism and biblical and patristic tradition*
2. Augustine of Hippo. Introduction
3. Augustine of Hippo: God, creation, human being*
4. Augustine of Hippo: knowledge
5. Augustine of Hippo: Language, time, moral philosophy, the "political augustinisme"

MEDIEVAL PATRISTIC PHILOSOPHY

6. Latin authors

7. Greek authors

THE LAST NEOPLATONISM

8. The Neoplatonic school of Athens

MUSLIM PHILOSOPHY

9. Muslim philosophy*

JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

10. Jewish philosophy*

BYZANTINE PHILOSOPHY

11. Byzantine philosophy*

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES

12. Latin philosophy at the Age of the Monasteries (9th-12th centuries)

SCHOLASTICISM: EARLY PERIOD AND MATURITY

13. The Renaissance of the twelfth century. The «new Aristotle»

14. Thomas Aquinas (1225-274) and his time

15. Thomas Aquinas: The *Summa Theologiae* and the God's existence

16. Thomas Aquinas and Aristotelian metaphysics

17. Thomas Aquinas: anthropology, moral, politics

THE PHILOSOPHY AFTER THE CONDEMNATION OF 1277

18. The Condemnation of 1277 and its consequences. John Duns Scot (ca. 1266-1308)

19. The "via modernorum": nominalism and mysticism

THE MEDIEVAL CATALAN PHILOSOPHY

20. Catalan philosophy until the beginning of the 14th century

21. Scotists and Thomists*

22. Towards the Renaissance and Humanism

* = Students who aspire to the highest grade are recommended to make an oral presentation about any of the topics marked with a * (see Evaluation)

Methodology

Lessons combine theoretical lectures with reading and comments about particularly significant texts. The lecturer will follow the manual "Introduction to medieval philosophy" (UAB Manuals, 57), UAB, Publications

Service, 2012, written by himself expressly for this subject. The student must go to class (the attendance and participation are important) having prepared the daily topic. The lecturer's explanation of the subject presupposes this preparation.

In addition, the student will have to make personal readings.

We will use the Virtual Campus basically to share the materials. On the other hand, if the student wishes to contact the lecturer, he or she must send a personal email (not by a Virtual Campus message).

The tutorials will be basically dedicated to prepare the essay and the compulsory readings, and to solve any doubt.

In order that students may program the course correctly, on the first day of class the lecturer will provide a calendar with all the important dates (examinations, work assignments, etc.) in the Virtual Campus.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures on fundamental concepts	28.5	1.14	1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 12, 18
Presentation of the cours	1.5	0.06	8, 17
Reading texts	15	0.6	22, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16, 7
Type: Supervised			
Reading: "Confessions", X-XIII, by Augustine of Hippo	20	0.8	14, 2, 15, 16, 17, 20
Reading: "De ente et essentia", by Aquinas	20	0.8	4, 5, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18
Tutorials	15	0.6	3, 14, 2, 11, 20, 21
Type: Autonomous			
Bibliographical research	20	0.8	6
Essay about a compulsory reading	7.5	0.3	5, 6, 15, 16, 18
Preparation of topics and texts	15	0.6	5, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21

Assessment

The assessment is continued and requires the attendance in class and the constant follow-up of the course. To pass the course is required: a) to achieve a mark of 4, at least, in each exam; b) to achieve a mark of 5 in average, at least, in the set of all the activities. If a student does not fulfil these two conditions, he or she must be submitted to a reevaluation exam. The essays will not have a reevaluation. The reevaluation is not possible without having done previously the ordinary exam.

The reassessment exam format will be similar to the ordinary exams format and will have two parts: one for the topics of each partial exam. The student will only have to do the failed part(s).

The student whose evaluation activities have not reached the 30% of the activities will be assessed as "Non-evaluable".

After the reevaluations, there is not a second round.

The lecturer will assign a day, hour and place to review the exams after having evaluated the activities of the course. Students who have to do the reassessment will have a specific day of review when they will have done the aforementioned reevaluation exam.

Comments on the evaluation activities

Exams: The student has to do two partial exams. Each exam may consist of two parts: theoretical and commentary questions of a passage. In addition to the theoretical contents of the subject, the student has to show his or her knowledge of the compulsory readings. In the theoretical questions, it will be necessary to demonstrate some knowledge of the basic bibliography. It is important to supplement the lecturer's presentations with, at least, a companion book. If the student has not been able to take one of the exams, he has failed it or the average of the assessment activities of the course does not reach 5, he will have to be submitted for a reassessment.

Essay: The student will do two compulsory readings: Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, X-XIII; and Thomas Aquinas, *De ente et essentia*. Both will be object to the exam. In addition, the student will have to present an essay based on one of the two works (to choose). This essay must have an extension of 5,000 words maximum.

Participation in class. The lecturer will take into account the students attendance and participation in class.

Students who aspire to the maximum grade are advised to make an oral presentation on one of the subjects marked with an asterisk (*) (see Contents).

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and participation in class	10	0	0	22, 11, 7
Essay on one of the compulsory reading	30	4.5	0.18	1, 19, 4, 6, 14, 8, 2, 9, 10, 11, 23, 12, 15, 17, 21
Exam 1	30	1.5	0.06	1, 19, 5, 8, 9, 10, 23, 13, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21
Exam 2	30	1.5	0.06	1, 19, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 23, 13, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21

Bibliography

Studentbook:

Jaume Mensa i Valls, *Introducció a la filosofia medieval* (Manuals de la UAB, 57), Bellaterra, Servei de Publicacions, 2012, 280 pàgs. With specific bibliography about different topics.

To find out more:

K. Flasch, *El pensament filosòfic a l'Edat Mitjana*. D'Agustí a Maquiavel, Santa Coloma de Queralt, Edèndum, 2006.

A. de Libera, *La filosofia medieval*, València, 2006.

Andrés Martínez Lorca, "La filosofía medieval. De Al-Farabi a Ockham" (Descubrir la Filosofía, 18), Madrid, El País, 2015.

Giannina Burlando, F. Bertelloni (eds.), *La filosofía medieval*, Madrid, Trotta, CSIC, 2002;

Michela Pereira, *La filosofia nel Medioevo. Secoli VI-VX*, Roma, Carocci, 2008 .

Agustí, "Confessions", X-XIII, ed. M. Dolç, Barcelona, Proa, 2007;

Tomàs d'Aquino, "Antologia metafísica" (Textos filosòfics, 56), Barcelona, Edicions 62, 1991.