

**PHH 4200 MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY**  
Dr. Sally Ferguson

**Course Overview:**

In this course we consider important aspects of philosophical thought during the Medieval period, from roughly 300 CE to 1500 CE. This period divides itself readily into two parts – the early medieval period, which was dominated by the thought of Augustine, who incorporated much Platonist thinking into a Christian framework, and the later medieval period, dominated by the thought of Aquinas, who did the same for Aristotle. Our course will not follow a temporal sequence, however. Instead, we will begin with some background and then focus on two main areas of thought important to medieval thinkers from both periods. One area is the philosophy of religion. This consists of issues such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, and the question of the relationship between God's foreknowledge and man's free will. The other area is that of epistemology, metaphysics and logic. Here we confront such issues as the problem of universals, questions concerning how we come to know true things, and what we can know, and logical paradoxes such as the famous liar paradox

**Required Texts:**

Andrew B. Schoedinger, editor: *Readings in Medieval Philosophy*, (Oxford University Press, 1996)

**Homework and Exams:**

There are two (5 page) papers that students will be required to write as well as two short-answer and essay examinations. The examinations must be written in "blue books" – examination booklets that are available at the UWF bookstore. Students are responsible for bringing their own blue books to the exams. Late written assignments and make-up exams will only be allowed in cases of legitimate need, and authentication of excuse will be required (e.g., doctor's note.) Arrangements should be made in advance except in cases of emergency, and as soon as possible in the case of emergency.

Each student will be expected to have read the applicable material in advance of class, and to be prepared to contribute to the discussion of the material. In class we will be discussing the issues raised in the reading, and expanding on them.

**Grading Policy:**

The grade in this course will be determined on the basis of two short-answer and essay examinations, each worth 30% of the final grade, and two (5 page) papers, each worth 20% of the final grade. Students should retain all of their written work for the course until after they have received their final grade.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is mandatory, and will be taken. Attendance records are used for the purposes of "bumping up" final grades. Those with good attendance records, if their final grade is on the borderline between grades, will be "bumped up". Those with poor attendance records will stay right where they are. Those who are chronically absent can expect to see their final grade diminished accordingly.