

Philosophy 2/33600: Medieval Philosophy
Winter 2009

Professor Josef Stern

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Philosophy 2/33600 is an introductory course on various topics discussed by philosophers from roughly 200 to 1300 C.E. During this period, the study and activity of philosophy was intimately connected to the interpretation of the three revealed monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—employing ideas and arguments inherited from ancient pagan philosophy. The pertinent works are in four languages: Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Arabic. Obviously a comprehensive treatment is impossible, and any profitable treatment will inevitably ignore a great number of topics and figures.

This course will follow one line of development from Plato and Aristotle to Plotinus into early Christian philosophy (Augustine and Anselm), through Islamic philosophy (Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Al-Ghazali, Averroes) and Jewish philosophy within the Islamicate world (Maimonides), and finally into Scholastic Philosophy (Aquinas). However, the development will not be purely chronological but by topics in chronology. The primary focus will be on questions in epistemology and metaphysics and on the conception of philosophy at that time and its relation to ways of living and modes of religious worship.

Written Requirements: (1) A take-home final examination (i.e., a number of essays, roughly 15-20 pp. in total length) due during exam week and (2) an in-class quiz during exam week to test your range of reading. The quiz is scheduled for Monday March 16, 4-6 p.m.; no alternative times are possible. If students (especially undergraduates) wish, I will split the take-home final examination into two parts, one of which will be assigned (and due) around mid-term. Graduate students may, with the permission of the instructor, substitute a term paper for the take-home examination. (Everyone must take the quiz).

Discussion Sections: There will be a weekly discussion section for undergraduates run by Toby Chow, whose meeting time will be announced by the middle of the second week. Attendance at the discussion section is mandatory (except for unavoidable scheduling conflicts, to be approved by the instructor). Those who wonder how mandatory attendance at the discussion section can be enforced should look ahead to their course grade. There will also be a discussion section for graduate students run by the instructor.

The following texts have been ordered at Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Required:

Pierre Hadot, What is Ancient Philosophy? Harvard UP ISBN 0-674-01373-5

Jon McGinnis and David Reisman, Classical Arabic Philosophy Hackett Publ. ISBN 978-0-87220-871-1

Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, Questions on God, ed. B. Davies and B. Leftow Cambridge UP ISBN 0-521-52892-5

Recommended:

- Maimonides, Guide of the Perplexed, Trans., Shlomo Pines; Two Volumes (GP)
ISBN 0-226-50230-9 & 0-226-50231-7
- P. Adamson and R.C. Taylor, eds. Cambridge Companion to Arabic Philosophy ISBN 0
521-52069-X
- K. Seeskin, ed., Cambridge Companion to Maimonides ISBN 0-521-52578-0
- N. Kretzmann and E. Stump, eds., Cambridge Companion to Aquinas ISBN 0-521-
43769-5

In addition, there are a considerable number of primary and some secondary readings on e-reserve for you to download (marked X on the syllabus). Some are essays taken from the recommended Cambridge Companions. Other readings are selected from the following:

1. Ian Mueller, "Notes on Plato and Aristotle in Later Ancient and Medieval Philosophy," 18 pp.
2. Selections from Plotinus, Enniads (from J. Dillon and L. P. Gerson, trans. and eds., Neoplatonic Philosophy: Introductory Readings)
3. Selections from the Theology of Aristotle, Prooemium and chs. 1, 4
4. Anselm, "Proslogion," "A Reply to the Foregoing... [by Gaunilo]," and "A Reply to the Foregoing... [by the Author]," from Hyman and Walsh, pp. 147-163.
5. Al-Farabi, Book of Letters, pp. 131.4-134.15, trans. by L.V. Berman
6. Maimonides, selections from Mishneh Torah, Book of Knowledge, trans. R. Lerner
7. Aquinas, "Different Ways of Knowing God," from On the Truth of the Catholic Faith.
8. R. Bosely and Martin Tweedale, Eds., Basic Issues in Middle Philosophy, 2nd Edition (BI) ISBN 1-55111-715-0
9. A.S. McGrade, ed. Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy ISBN 0-521
00063-7

Finally, I ordered Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed as a recommended reading on the assumption that we could put on e-reserve electronic copies of all selections we are reading for those who did not wish to purchase the two volumes. Unfortunately, the Law seems to have frustrated our intentions. We will put the actual hard copies on reserve for you to read or copy in the Library, and we will order more copies at the bookstore.

Tentative List of Readings (Readings prefaced by # are secondary and recommended but not required):

O. Recommended background reading on medieval philosophy and its historical context

#CCMP: McGrade 1-8 (on contemporary study of medieval philosophy); Marrone 10-49 (on the historical context of medieval philosophy)

I. From god to God

- Ian Mueller, "Notes on Plato and Aristotle in Later Ancient and Medieval Philosophy,"
pp.1-7, 13-14 (X)
- Hadot, 1-22, 55-90
- Plato, BI 319-324 (X)
- Aristotle BI 5-6, 87-94, 130-132 (X)

Hadot 91-171

Plotinus BI 536-46, selections from Theology of Aristotle (chs. 1, 4) and Enneads (page references are to Dillon and Gerson) I 8 (51): pp. 30-35; IV 8 (6): pp. 56-66; V I (10): pp. 66-82; V 2 (11): 83-86. (X)

Hadot, 172-252

Pseudo-Dionysius, BI 547-555 (X)

St Augustine, BI 418-427 (X)

Anselm of Canterbury, BI, 95-96 (X)

[Optional: Reply by Gaunilo and Counter-reply by Anselm (X)]

CAP Introduction, xvii-xxxi;

#CCAP, 1-39 (Essays by Adamson and Taylor, D'Ancona, and the first part of the Adamson essay)

Avicenna, BI 13-17, CAP 209-219

#CCMP 147-170 (Menn)

#CCAP 91-96, 105-127 (parts of Wisnovsky essay)

Al-Ghazali and Averroes BI 97-101 (X)

Ibn Tufail, BI 580-1, CAP 284-293; BI 581-584 (X)

#CCAP 165-176 (second half of Montada essay)

Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Book of Knowledge, Laws Concerning Foundations of the Torah (trans. R. Lerner) Chs. I-IV (X)

Maimonides, Guide I: 35-36: pp.79-85; I:14: pp. 40, I:26: pp. 56-7, I:46: pp. 97-103; I:71-72: pp. 175-194; II: Introduction to Second Part, pp. 235-241; II:1-13: pp. 241-285, II: 19: pp. 302-312, II:22-25: pp. 317-330, I: 57: pp. 132-3, I:69: pp. 166-171.

CCM Essays by Kraemer, 10-57; Ivry. 58-81 (X), Seeskin, 82-91 (X)

Aquinas, ST Q2 - Q4 (pp. 20-50), Q7 (pp. 69-77), Q 11(pp. 105- 112); BI, 105-106 (X)

CCA Essays by Aertsen, 12-37; Owens 38-59; Burrell, 60-84; Wippel. 85-127

II. Epistemology: Intellect and Skepticism

Mueller, "Notes," pp. 7-9,12-13

Hadot 110-113, 139-145

Augustine BI 408-418 (X)

Aristotle BI 613-623 (X)

Alexander BI 624-31 (X)

Themistius BI 632-644 (X)

Al-Farabi, "Selections from Book of Demonstration" (CAP 63-68) "On the Intellect" (CAP 68-78)

Avicenna CAP 152-6, 175-209

Averroes CAP 335-360

#CCAP Essays by Taylor, 189-197; Black 308-326.

Maimonides Guide I: Epistle and Introduction to the First Part: pp. 2-20; I:1-2: pp. 21-26; I:5-7: pp. 29-33, I:17: pp. 42-3; I:30-35: pp. 63-81, I:50-64: pp. 111-157; I: 68: pp. 163-166; I:72: pp. 184-194, I:73 : pp. 209-212 only, III:8-9: pp. 430-7, III:15: pp. 459-461

CCM Essays by Stern, "Maimonides' Epistemology," 105-133/Typescript (X); Freudenthal, 134-166.

Aquinas ST Q1 (p. 3-19), Q3 (pp. 28-43), Q 11 (pp. 105-112), Q 12, (pp. 113-37), Q 13 (pp. 138-166)

CCA Essay by MacDonald, 160-195

III: Religion and Philosophy, Reason and Revelation

Al-Farabi, Book of Letters, pp. 131.4-134.15, trans. by L.V. Berman (X)

"The Attainment of Happiness," from Philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, 222-32 (X)
#CCAP 52-71 (Reisman)

Averroes, "The Decisive Treatise Determining the Nature of the Connection between Religion and Philosophy" CAP 309-330

#CCAP Essay by Taylor, esp.180-189

Maimonides, II: 40: pp. 381-385; III:27-28: pp. 510-514; , III: 26-33: 506-534; III:51-54: pp. 618-638.

CCM Essays by Kreisel, 193-220; Klein-Braslavy, 245-272; Ravitzky, 300-323

Aquinas, "Different Ways of Knowing God," from On the Truth of the Catholic Faith (X), ST ST Q1 (p. 3-19), Q 13 (pp. 138-166).

CCA Essays by Jordan, 232-251, Stump, 252-268

Selected Additional Primary and Secondary Reading (all of these are either on course reserve or in the reading rooms in Regenstein):

1. General Histories and Collections of Essays on Medieval Philosophy (See also the bibliographical references in the CCMP and CCAP):

Armstrong, A.H. , Ed., Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy (CH)

Frank, Daniel H. and Oliver Leaman, eds. Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy

Hyman, Arthur and James J. Walsh, eds., Philosophy in the Middle Ages (Hackett)

Khalidi, Muhammad Ali, ed., Medieval Islamic Philosophy

Kneale, W. and M. Kneale, The Development of Logic (BC15.K7 1978), especially chs. I, II.

Kretzmann, N., A. Kenny, and J. Pinborg, eds. The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy

Lerner, Ralph and Muhsin Mahdi, eds., Medieval Political Philosophy (LM)

Manekin, C. ed., Medieval Jewish Philosophical Writings

Marenbom, John, ed. Routledge History of Medieval Philosophy, Vol. III

Nasr, Seyyed Hussein and Oliver Leaman, Eds. Routledge History of Islamic Philosophy, Vol. I,

Sirat, Colette, A History of Jewish Philosophy in the Middle

2. On Plotinus and Neo-platonism

Armstrong, in CH

L.P. Gerson, ed., Cambridge Companion to Plotinus

L. P. Gerson, Plotinus

P. Hadot, Plotinus, or the Simplicity of Vision

Porphury, Isagoge

Proclus, Elements of Theology (Also known as Liber de Causis (Book of Causes))

3. On Al-Farabi:

F.W. Zimmermann, trans. and ed., Al-Farabi's Commentary and Short Treatise on Aristotle's De Interpretatione (The introduction is one of the best essays on Islamic philosophy of language and logic)

4. On Maimonides

Isadore Twersky, ed., Maimonides Reader

Shlomo Pines' "Translator's Introduction" to his translation of the Guide of the Perplexed (The best introduction to Maimonides' philosophical thought in the context of his Islamic and ancient sources. Also a general introduction to themes in the philosophy of Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Al-Ghazzali, and Averroes.

Joseph Buijs, Maimonides: A Collection of Critical Essays (especially the papers by Altmann, Hyman, Pines, Harvey, Craig, and Feldman)

Leo Strauss, "The Literary Character of the Guide of the Perplexed" in his Persecution and the Art of Writing.

Charles Manekin, On Maimonides

5. On Aquinas,

Norman Kretzmann and Eleonore Stump, eds., Cambridge Companion to Aquinas

Anton Pegis, Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas

Eleonore Stump, Aquinas

Brian Davies, ed. Thomas Aquinas