

MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY  
PHILOSOPHY 301

Instructor: Prof. Joseph Hwang  
Office: Trinity Hall 104  
Phone: 898-6693  
E-Mail: jwhwang@csuchico.edu  
Office Hours: TR 2:00-5:00 P.M.

Class Time: TR 11:00-12:15  
Class Location: Langdon Engineering Center 303

**Course Description**

The course is a survey of medieval philosophy and early modern philosophy, covering the end of ancient philosophy in the 6<sup>th</sup> century C.E. all the way up to Renè Descartes (1596-1650 C.E.). Although we will briefly consider some of the works of philosophers of the ancient period (Plato and Aristotle), our primary focus will be on the medieval thinkers.

The general theme for the course is going to be medieval and early modern conceptions of God and the human soul. In particular, we will look at medieval accounts and arguments on the essence of a human being, and the cognitive relation it has to the world. Some topics we will cover include accounts of the soul and its relation to body in the formation of a human being and the self; the faculty of the will and its relation (tension) with the world and Divine foreknowledge; how the world can be *known* and, more generally, *cognized* by us; the existence of God and evil; and the immortality of the soul.

**Required Texts**

1. Bosley, R. and Tweedale, M. Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy (BIMP).
2. Readings posted on the class website.

**Grading**

The following is the list of the assignments that will be *required* for the course:

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Short Assignment: | 20% |
| 2. Midterm           | 30% |
| 3. Final Exam        | 50% |

*Attendance:* I will not be taking attendance. You may come and go as you please. But be very careful not to miss too many classes or assignment deadlines. Missing lecture days could affect your grade indirectly. Participation can bump you up a third of a grade (e.g. from a B+ to an A-). Note that people who have not attended regularly to class have typically done very poorly in the class. It is in your interest to attend regularly. In all previous courses, those who received below a C- in the course hardly ever showed up to

class. So, clearly, there is a correlation between how well you do in the class and how often you show up.

*Policy on Missed/Late Assignments:* If you need an extension, you need to tell me at least one day before the deadline to make arrangements. *You must provide good reason(s) for the extension.* Otherwise, for every day that you are late, your paper will be deducted one point. *Assignments that are late a week or more will not be accepted.* Quizzes cannot be made up unless 1. you have made prior arrangements with me (at least 24 hours in advance) to reschedule the quiz; or 2. you have an official note (e.g. from your doctor) showing sufficient proof for your inability to be present on the day of the quiz.

### Academic Dishonesty

Don't cheat - cheating will not be tolerated in this class. No crib sheets, no submissions of papers written for other classes, no using other people's work, no copying other people's work, etc. You may study together and collaborate together on assignments. But be sure that you are not crossing the line into academic dishonesty. Using on-line paper essay services or taking from Wikipedia is unacceptable. You may *quote* or *reference* on-line sources; but do *not* use those sources to speak *entirely* for you.

Some may fall into cheating because they're stressed out, or because they've got a lot on their plate. Whatever the reason, it is neither worth the risk, nor is it ever the right thing to do. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, come talk to me and we can try to work something yet. Better yet, if you find yourself tempted to cheat, tell me that you're tempted to cheat and that'll help you from not cheating. :) For more information on issues regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, visit the following sites:

Cheating: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/cheating.pdf>

Plagiarism: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf>

Collaboration and studying together:

<http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/Unauthorized%20Collaboration.pdf>

Seriously, do not cheat.

### Student Disabilities

If you have any disabilities of any kind that may affect your learning in the classroom, you can contact student services and they will be able to accommodate your needs. I will be happy to work with you and them. You can visit them here:

<http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/index.shtml>