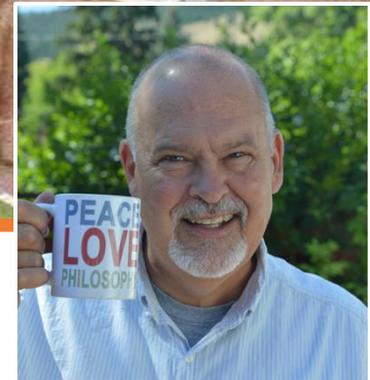


CARROLL COLLEGE MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Spring, 2021 | PHIL202 | MWF, 9:00-9:50am | 101 O'Connell
Dr. Mark Smillie | msmillie@carroll.edu |
Office Hours: MW, 3:30-4:30 pm; T, 9:00-10:00; Th, 2:00-4:30 pm; F, 1:30-3:30



... medieval man was not a dreamer nor a wanderer. He was an organizer, a codifier, a builder of systems.” (C.S. Lewis)

Thinkers in the middle ages (c500-1400) made sense of their lives with philosophy. You're here to see how they did this, and how their efforts might influence your own thinking.

Did you know that religious faith can support human reason?



... that created reality could be a sign and expression of God?



... philosophy can broaden your perspectives and outlook?



We'll cover these issues and look at some key figures of this period. You'll learn how medieval philosophy developed, its key themes, and how medieval thinkers brought faith and reason together to understand themselves and their world.

Required textbooks



Augustine Confessions. Translated by Thomas Williams. Hackett Publishing Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-62466-782-4. New: \$11.00.

Boethius, Consolation of Philosophy. Revised Edition. Translated by Victor Watts. Penguin, 1999. ISBN 978-0-14-044780-4. New: \$16.00

Anselm, Basic Writings. Translated by Thomas Williams. Hackett Publishing Company, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-87220-895-7. New: \$15.00.

The Hackett Aquinas, Basic Works. Edited by Jeffery Hause and Robert Pasnau. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2014. ISBN: 978-1-62466-124-2. New: \$35.00. Or find the readings from the *Summa Theologiae* on the web. (www.newadvent.org/summa/). The book is inexpensive; but we will only be reading a small portion of it.

Christine de Pizan, The Book of the City of Ladies and Other Writings. Edited by Sophie Bourgault and Rebecca Kingston; translated by Ineke Hardy. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2018. ISBN: 978-1-62466-729-9. New: \$16.00.



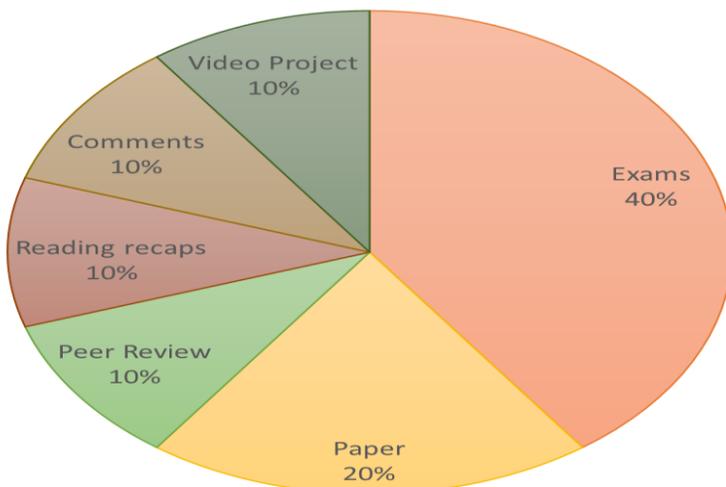
What does a typical class look like?

We will be reading primary texts and making sense of the thinking there. We start with student summaries, and your questions, and go from there to explore, understand, and assess those claims and arguments.



How are you evaluated?

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION



LETTER	RANGE
A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D	60-69.99
F	Below 60
P/F	60

Assignment Details

Assignment #1: Reading Recaps

Due: May 5, 2021
10% of Final Grade

What is it? Written versions of two of your assigned in-class reviews. Each student will be assigned to recap the readings for each class; instructions provided elsewhere. Submit at least two of these at the end of semester.

What's the purpose of this assignment? I want to build a dialogue between ourselves and the texts we read. A student recap begins that bridge from a point that student's share.

Assignment #2: Reading Comments

Weekly throughout Semester
10% of final Grade

What is it? Comments on the reading: something that you agree or disagree with. An intriguing quote. Submitted to Moodle weekly. You need to complete 10.

What's the purpose of this assignment? The purpose is to think more deeply about the readings and make connections to ideas/thoughts outside the readings. Making connections is how we learn.

Assignment #3: Peer Review

March 25
10% of Final Grade

What is it? Complete three peer reviews of your fellow student's papers, randomly chosen by Moodle. The reviews will be done online. A rubric will be provided for assessment.

What is the purpose of this assignment? Most of the time, our first drafts are bad. But when you get feedback and rework it, the paper DRASTICALLY improves! Bottom line: you won't have to write your paper last minute, and it will be stronger.



Assignment #4: Paper

March 30
20% of Final Grade

What is it? A 1000-1500 word (4-6 page) essay that argues for or against a philosophical view we have studied in class. Topics will be suggested.

What's the purpose of this assignment? Doing philosophy is a key part of philosophy classes, and a paper is the traditional place to do this. This is a chance for you to do some extended philosophical thinking. Its also a chance for you to say what you really think and try to support that with the best reasons you can muster



Assignment #5: Video

April 30
10% of Final Grade

What is it? In small groups, you will produce a short video about the life, ideas, and historical context of a single Medieval philosopher and post it on the internet.

What is the purpose of this assignment? This is a chance for you to "flex your philosophical muscles," to study persons we cannot cover in class, and show you understanding about what is philosophically significant about someone's thinking—a skill that I am hoping to inculcate in this class.

Assignment #6: Exams

Feb 26 and May 11
40% of Final Grade

What is it? %): A midterm exam (20%) and a final exam (20%). Each covers the material since the last test. Tests will be essay answer focusing on philosophical positions studied and asking for the student's evaluation.

What is the purpose of this assignment? Tests manifest to ourselves what we can do. This is an assessment for you of your learning progress and achievement with the readings and topics we will be studying.

Course Calendar

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ
1	WED 1/20	Why study medieval philosophy? / Syllabus	
	FRI 1/22	Is existence self-explanatory?	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Book 1
2	MON 1/25	Is God the source of all good? Is God the source of truth?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 2-3
	WED 1/27	Are human powers sufficient of themselves for human happiness?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 4
	FRI 1/29	Can we know anything?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 5
3	MON 2/1	How can philosophy help sort out our understanding of God?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 6-7
	WED 2/3	Can philosophy substitute for religious faith?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 8
	FRI 2/5	What is wisdom?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 9
4	MON 2/8	Must the world express God?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 10-11
	WED 2/10	Can reason help our faith?	<i>Confessions</i> , Book 12
	FRI 2/12		<i>Confessions</i> , Book 13
5	MON 2/15	What do you do when all seems lost?	Boethius, <i>Consolation</i> , Book I
	WED 2/17	Is life supposed to have meaning?	<i>Consolation</i> , Book II
	FRI 2/19	Are humans <i>made</i> for happiness?	<i>Consolation</i> , Book III
6	MON 2/22	Is God unjust and unfair for creating the world He did?	<i>Consolation</i> , Book IV
	WED 2/24		<i>Consolation</i> , Book IV-V
	FRI 2/26	Can there be human freewill if God knows the future?	<i>Consolation</i> , Book V
7	MON 3/1	MIDTERM EXAM TODAY--	
	WED 3/3	MINI SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS	
	FRI 3/5	How can reason help faith in the existence and nature of God?	Anselm, Proslogion 1-12 (Basic Writings, pages 75-88)
MON 3/8	Proslogion 13-26 (Basic Writings, pages 88-98)		
8	WED 3/10	Can we prove God's existence?	Gaunilo's Reply On Behalf of the Fool... (Basic Writings, 99-113)
	FRI 3/12		
9	MON 3/15	What is truth? What <i>things</i> are true? What is justice?	Anselm "Truth" (Basic Writings, pages 119-144)
	WED 3/17		No new reading
	FRI 3/19		No new reading

10	MON 3/22	What is freedom of choice? Can humans lose their freedom?	Anselm, "On Freedom of Choice" (Basic Writings, pages 146-167)
	WED 3/24		No new reading
	FRI 3/26		No new reading
11	MON 3/29	What is the relationship between faith and reason?	Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, Question 1, Articles 1, 2, 5, 8. (Basic Works, pages 36-46*)
	WED 3/31		
	FRI 4/2	<i>GOOD FRIDAY: NO CLASS</i>	
12	MON 4/5	<i>EASTER MONDAY: NO CLASS</i>	
	WED 4/7	What can we know about God's existence?	Summa, Question 2. (Basic Works, pages 49-55)
	FRI 4/9		No new reading
13	MON 4/12	How different is God from other things we know exist?	Summa, Question 3, especially Article 4 & 7 (BW, pg 36-49)
	WED 4/14		Summa, Question 4, A1 & 2, BW, pages 66-69
	FRI 4/16		Summa, Question 7, A1 & 2. BW pages 84-87
14	MON 4/19	Are things good because God says, or does God command them because they are good?	Summa, Part I-II, Question 90, BW pages 619-6724
	WED 4/21		Summa, Question 94, A1-5, BW pages 644-52
	FRI 4/23	<i>ATTEND REMOTE SURF: NO CLASS</i>	
15	MON 4/26	How is Dante's Divine Comedy a poem about medieval philosophy?	
	WED 4/28	What are the positive influences women have had on society?	Christine de Pizan, <i>The Book of the City of Ladies. Book I, 1-14.</i> <i>Pages 21-49</i>
	FRI 4/30		<i>The Book of the City of Ladies, Part II (Rectitude), pages 97-117</i>
16	MON 5/3	Last day of class	<i>The Book of the City of Ladies Part III (Justice) pages 189-209</i>
	WED 5/5		



Course Policies



Citizenship has to do with attendance as well as how you treat others. Most wars, fights, retaliations, & insults happen when people feel their dignity has been assaulted. So please, respect each individual's opinions and beliefs--even if you disagree.



Please **attend** class regularly. If you are late, I prefer you quietly slip in rather than miss the class. I keep an attendance record; please inform me if you cannot make it to class (email is fine).

Any more than four unexcused **absences** (90% attendance) and I reserve the right to fail you. Why? Because you are sending a message (intentionally or unintentionally) that you don't care. And it rubs people the wrong way.



Keep your **cell phones** on silent and avoid using them in class (or take it outside for emergencies) so we can focus. Another citizenship issue: we all know that feeling when you're talking to a friend and his or her attention is on the phone...

The **readings** form the core of our class discussions, so please come prepared. I expect each of you to contribute!



I will **respond** to email and phone inquiries within one business day (Saturdays and Sundays are not business days, nor are College holidays). I will post notifications in the Moodle Announcements; and keep the Calendar feature up to date. Students are expected to see and respond to communications from me on the same time frame, by the end of the following business day. You should plan to check your Carroll email regularly.



For questions about COVID, please see the my COVID policy.

Submit **assignments** electronically on Moodle; uplinks will be there and deadlines will be posted.



I get that there are **emergencies** and you have other **commitments**. Please contact me in advance about deadlines or test dates that become a problem for you and we'll work something out. Students having good reasons for missing a deadline or test should contact me in advance of the deadline.

Late assignments without prior notice can still be submitted for up 80% of the grade. Missed tests will be taken at the Testing Center. Please contact the Testing Center yourself to schedule times.



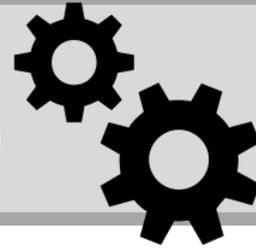
I encourage you to seek **clarification** for grades you do not understand. If you disagree with my assessment, please appeal the grade. This works best for me if you submit your appeal to me first in *writing*, explaining your point, or why you think your answer was correct. After receiving your written request, I will review your documentation and the assignment and decide if a grade change is warranted, and contact you. If your concern remains after that, then I will meet with you. Under no condition will a grade review result in a lowered grade. For grievances about my course policies, and your final grade, please consult the *Carroll College Catalogue Grievance Procedure*.

About Me



I am a full professor in the Philosophy and Catholic Studies Department. I received my PhD. from the University of Notre Dame. I came to Carroll College in 1995. My research interests are in Medieval Philosophy, especially the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and in applied ethics. I have given papers/presentations on: Thomas Aquinas, Catholic Identity, God's Omnipotence, End of Life Decision-Making, using technology in the classroom. I've been married 35 years and have eight kids (two Carroll grads; one at Carroll right now--maybe you know him?) I am involved in various community organizations in Helena and enjoy visiting historical sites, hiking, and photography

The Technical Stuff...



Course Outcomes

You will develop your understanding of key issues in medieval philosophy, such as the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of human happiness, the problem of evil, free will, and the nature of God

You will explain philosophical positions taken by medieval thinkers and evaluate the arguments they used to defend their claims

You will read primary medieval texts and interact with them through responses, class discussions, and activities.

You will express and support your own views on medieval philosophical positions

Academic Integrity Policy

Practice high standards of integrity! The Carroll College Catalogue states: "Students at Carroll College are expected to have high standards of integrity. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes on examinations or assignments, falsifies college records, or fails to give requested academic information on admission documents is subject to dismissal or other appropriate disciplinary action by the College."

Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, deception, and complicity are wrong and undermine our ability to enjoy and profit from this class. I will investigate all suspected cases of plagiarism, and will penalize all verified instances; the penalty can be as severe as immediate failure in the course.

If you are unsure about whether some actions constitute plagiarism, please ask me.



DISABILITY STATEMENT: Recognizing the unique value of each human being, the Carroll College Mission Statement is in accord with the spirit of both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The college is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you believe that you may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability, please contact Dr. Kathleen Gilboy, Accessibility Services Coordinator, to discuss your specific needs and disability documentation requirements and to determine a reasonable accommodation plan. You may schedule a meeting through Handshake with Dr. Gilboy. Her office is located in O'Connell Hall room 126 and her extension is 406-447-4376. Learn more at the Accessibility Services webpage: <https://www.carroll.edu/academic-services/accessibility-services>.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

All course materials for Carroll College courses are the exclusive property of the individual(s) who created them. It is illegal to share or sell any course materials you may obtain as a student in this class, whether on paper or in digital form. Unauthorized reproduction and distribution of Carroll College course materials may be grounds for disciplinary and/or legal action.

CLASS AND COVID (SPRING 2021)

Even with the COVID vaccine in our sights, all the social distancing and hygiene protocols for the fall will remain in place at Carroll this semester. That means the following:

Class Etiquette

1. We will all wear masks/face coverings during class.
2. No eating in class; this will facilitate mask wearing. You may have a drink during class, but that is not an excuse for not wearing your mask.
3. Classrooms are at 50% capacity; we will all social distance a minimum of 6 feet.
4. We will devise a seating chart; please sit in the same place each day for class to facilitate contact tracing.
5. Please wipe down your desks and seats at the beginning of class and spray desks (don't wipe them) when they leave.

Illness and Attendance

1. If you are ill – stay home.
2. If you give me enough notice, I will set up a camera for you to zoom into the class. It isn't optimal, but it will work as a temporary fix. There is a zoom link on the Moodle page.
3. If I become ill, I will stay home. I will contact the entire class in the morning; I will teach remotely in some fashion (zoom if I am able, or through assignments on Moodle.)
4. If you are or suspect you have the COVID virus, or that have been exposed to someone who has, you should isolate and may be required to quarantine. All absences during the time of illness will be waived and students should continue their course work online, from a distance, as best as their health allows.
5. Remember the procedure if you think you have COVID-19 symptoms: call your primary healthcare provider or the Wellness Center at 406-447-5441 immediately for instructions on how to proceed with ordering a test.
6. Please reach out with any issues you have about COVID and the class.

I appreciate your patience with me and your fellow students. We will get through this!