

Philosophy 305 A
Early Medieval Philosophy
(4th to the 12th Century CE)

This course begins with a brief presentation of the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle and Plotinus insofar as these were influential on medieval philosophical thought. It then considers major thinkers in the Christian traditions from the 4th to the 12th century CE, and includes a brief introduction to major Islamic and Jewish philosophers within that time period insofar as their speculations were influential on medieval Christian philosophy.

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Text: Hours

The criteria for assigning grades may be found in the University Calendar. Students are encouraged to discuss their examinations with the instructor.

Study Aids

All of the

- c. God, humanity and the problem of evil
 - (i) natural evil
 - (ii) moral evil
 - (iii) predestination and free will.
- d. Reason and faith

C. Pseudo-Dionysius (Dionysius the Areopagite)

- a. Negative and positive ways (*via negative* and *via positiva*)
- b. Neoplatonic currents
- c. Problem of evil

D. Boethius

- a. Historical importance
- b. Free will vs. fate
- c. God's foreknowledge

E. John Scotus Eriugena

- a. Nature and origin of the universe
- b. Humanity and God
- c. Reason and faith

F. St. Anselm of Canterbury

- a. Reason and faith
- b. Ontological argument for the existence of God

G. Abelard and the Problem of Universals

- a. Introduction
- b. Porphyry and Boethius
- c. Roscelin of Compiègne
- d. Peter Abelard

- (ii) intellectual knowledge
- (c) eschatology: the fate of humanity

J. Al-Ghaz li (Algazel)

- a. Importance for Islamic and Christian philosophy
- b. Argument for the existence of God
- c. Mystical scepticism

K. Ibn Rushd (Averroes)

- a. Reason and faith
 - (a) types of intellects
 - (b) theory of double truth
- b. Humanity and the universe

L. Conclusion and Review