

## **Introduction to Medieval Theology**

Davenant Hall: Online Studies

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Course Start Date: 6/1/2020

Course End Date: 8/7/2020

### **Course Description**

Today, it is common to dismiss the medieval period as a time of intellectual decay—it was only through the ground-breaking work of the Reformers and the Enlightenment that the West was saved from the Dark Ages, some will say. However, as recent research has shown, the so-called "Modern" Era was far more dependent on medieval thought than many would like to admit. This course aims to introduce the student to the major theologians of the medieval period and their contributions to Christian thought, offering a high-level overview of key figures and texts, with in-depth study of representative excerpts. The student will be encouraged and equipped to continue reading medieval theologians for their own enrichment, and will come to understand how medieval theology continues to offer a rich harvest of insight for contemporary thought.

### **Class Format**

Classes will meet weekly via Zoom for one hour from 6/1/2020 to 8/7/2020, and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate. The day and time will be determined by vote once the students have signed up. An optional discussion period will be available after the first hour for those who are available and wish to participate. Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on our private Davenant Commons discussion board.

### **Course textbook**

- (1) Primary source readings provided by the professor

### **Suggested readings/resources**

#### **Primary Sources:**

- (1) Peter ABELARD, *Ethical Writings: Ethics and Dialogue Between a Philosopher, a Jew, and a Christian*. Trans. Paul Vincent Spade. Hackett, 1995.
- (2) MOSES MAIMONIDES, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, abridged, trans. Chaim Rabin. Hackett, 1995.
- (3) ANSELM, *Monologion and Proslogion with the replies of Gaunilo and Anselm*, trans. Thomas Williams. Hackett, 1996.
- (4) BERNARD of CLAIRVAUX, *Selected Works*. Trans. G. R. Evans. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2002.
- (5) THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Theologiae*.
- (6) THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Contra Gentiles*.
- (7) THOMAS AQUINAS, *De Veritate*.
- (8) THOMAS AQUINAS, *Commentary on the De Trinitate of Boethius*.

- (9) BONAVENTURE, *The Soul's Journey Into God, The Tree of Life, The Life of St. Francis*. trans. Ewert Cousins. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1978.
- (10) JEAN DUN SCOT, *Philosophical Writings*. Trans. Allan Wolter. Hackett, 1987.
- (11) WILLIAM of OCKHAM, *Philosophical Writings*. Trans. Philotheus Boehner. Ed. Stephen F. Brown. Hackett, 1990.

### Secondary Sources:

- (1) ARMSTRONG, A. H. *The Cambridge History of Later Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1967.
- (2) ARMSTRONG, Chris R. *Medieval Wisdom for Modern Christians: Finding Authentic Faith in a Forgotten Age with C. S. Lewis*, Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016.
- (3) COPLESTON, Frederick. *A History of Philosophy, Vol. 2 : Medieval Philosophy - From Augustine to Duns Scotus*, Tunbridge Wells, Burns & Oates, 1999.
- (4) CRUMP, C. G., and E. F. Jacob (eds.), *The Legacy of the Middle Ages*. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1938.
- (5) DAVIES, Brian and Brian Leftow, *The Cambridge Companion to Anselm*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- (6) DAVIES, Brian and Eleonore Stump (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas*, Oxford, England, Oxford University Press, 2012.
- (7) GILSON, Étienne. *Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages*, New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1938.
- (8) GILSON, Étienne. *The Spirit of Medieval Philosophy*
- (9) KRETZMANN, Norman and Eleonore STUMP (eds). *The Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- (10) KRETZMANN, Norman, Anthony KENNY, and Jan FINBORG (eds). *The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- (11) LEVY, Ian Christopher. *Introducing Medieval Biblical Interpretation: The Senses of Scripture in Premodern Exegesis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018.
- (12) MARENBNON, John, *The Cambridge Companion to Boethius*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- (13) MARENBNON, John. *Early Medieval Philosophy (480-1150)*, Revised Edition, New York, Routledge, 1988.
- (14) MARENBNON, John. *Later Medieval Philosophy (1150-1350)*, New York, Routledge, 1987
- (15) MARENBNON, John (ed.). *Routledge History of Philosophy Volume III: Medieval Philosophy*, New York, Routledge, 1998.
- (16) MARENBNON, John. *Medieval Philosophy: An Historical and Philosophical Introduction*, New York, Routledge, 2007.
- (17) MAURER, Armand A. *Medieval Philosophy*, Toronto, PIMS, 1982.
- (18) MECONI, David Vincent, et Eleonore Stump, *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- (19) McGRADE, A. S. (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

- (20) PASNAU, Robert and Christina VAN DYKE (eds). *The Cambridge History of Medieval Philosophy*, 2 vols, Revised edition, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- (21) PELIKAN, Jaroslav. *The Growth of Medieval Theology (600-1300)*, vol. 3 of *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*, Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1978.
- (22) PIEPER, Josef. *Scholasticism: Personalities and Problems of Medieval Philosophy*, St. Augustine Press, 2001.
- (23) SPADE, Paul Vincent, *The Cambridge Companion to Ockham*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- (24) WILLIAMS, Thomas, *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

### **Learning Outcomes/Requirements**

Through this course, the student will:

- A. be able to explain the historical context of medieval theology, understanding
- B. be able to understand and explain the main philosophical and theological positions of key medieval theologians
- C. be able to adequately bring the thought of these medieval theologians into interaction with contemporary and Reformed theology and philosophy.
- D. be able to evaluate the thought of these medieval theologians from a biblical, historical, and rational perspective, so as to defend those positions that are orthodox, and refute those that are not.

### **Suggested Course work**

- A. Participate in each class session
- B. Participate in discussions on class forum
- C. Read the primary source textbook

### **Class Schedule**

Tentative

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject covered</b>	<b>Suggest readings</b>
<b>1</b>		<p>Introduction &amp; Approach</p> <p>Cultural background, life, and works</p> <p>Philosophical background</p>	

2		Augustine and Boethius: Defining Christian Theology	
3		Pseudo-Dionysius and Moses Maïmonides: Let's Talk about God	
4		Boethius and Johannes Scotus Eriugena on Predestination	
5		Anselm: Perfect Being Theology	
6		Bernard of Clairvaux and Medieval Mysticism The Ascension to Knowledge The Insatiability of Desire On Love	
7		Albert the Great and Roger Bacon: Science and Theology Medieval Cosmology	
8		Thomas Aquinas and Biblical Interpretation	
9		Bonaventure: The Soul's Journey to God	
10		Thomas Aquinas, John Dun Scotus and William of Ockham on Faith and Reason  The "End" of the Medieval Period	