

## MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

(PHH 3200)

Department of Philosophy • University of Central Florida

Time: T/Th 3:00pm-4:15pm • Place: HEC 110 • Term: Spring 2019

Instructor: Cyrus Ali Zargar • Email: zargar@ucf.edu • Office: PSYCH 237

Office Hours: Tues. 9am-10 am • Thurs. 10am-11am

### Description

Welcome to medieval philosophy, the surprise hit of the term! If two words were ever doomed to fail in arousing excitement, they might be “medieval” and “philosophy.” Yet, as I hope you’ll agree after the next few weeks, the journey we will make into intellectual history can be stimulating and thought-provoking indeed. We will begin by dealing with the state of Greek philosophical thought in the Ninth Century CE. Our focus, however, will be on philosophers writing in Arabic, who revived a tradition unfamiliar to many of their peers and ended up creating an intellectual tradition that left its mark on Asia, Africa, and Europe. In addition to these thinkers, we will explore medieval Christian and Jewish philosophers, always thinking about ways in which concepts are inherited, grappled with, and passed on to others. In many ways, this might be considered a course on comparative philosophy, with a focus on Islamic texts and, within that, as we shall see, a focus on ethics.

Thank you for being here! This course will be challenging at times, so I encourage you to find time to meet with me. I’m always willing to help you with assignments or readings.

### Catalogue Description

The influence of Greek philosophical thought in medieval Muslim, Jewish and Christian philosophy, as expressed in its main problems and representative thinkers.

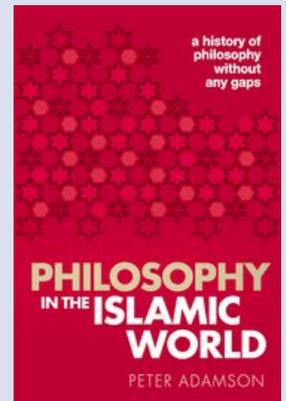
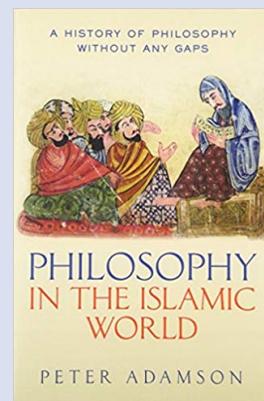
### Readings

Your assigned text is *Philosophy in the Islamic World*, by Peter Adamson (OUP 2016), ISBN for paperback: 978-0-19-881861-8.

It is referred to in the syllabus by the acronym “PIW.”

Most assigned readings will come from this text.

All others will be on Canvas.



## Assignments and Grading

See calendar for due dates.

1. Syllabus Quiz (1%). You will answer a few questions about the syllabus.
2. Attendance and Participation (8%). The basis of this grade will be a percentage of days attended, but it can include participation in the following ways: (a) Failure to participate in class (playing with a device; having a side conversation; failing to participate in group activities; showing up late; and other such actions) will reduce your professionalism score by 6 points (out of 100). (b) Readings should be completed before the class day where they are mentioned on the syllabus. They should always be brought to class, whether in book form, printed out, or on a tablet or mini-tablet (7.9 inches diagonally or larger). Bringing the reading on a phone does not suffice. This is especially true for in-class readings. Students who participate actively can make up missed days (for a valid reason) through writing a summary of the reading for that day. Contact your instructor for approval.
3. Thesis Paragraph Tests or "TPTs" (36%). Three times in the term, you will be given a prompt related to topics in the class. You are to write a short response that would work as the "thesis paragraph" for a longer paper, followed by a numbered outline of what your essay *would* look like, were you to complete it. Make sure to indicate the sort of evidence you see in the readings to justify your claim. Answers should be limited to 500 words, that is, 450-550 words (see below). Only the two highest TPTs will count toward your final grade.
4. First Draft "Midterm" Essay on One Thinker (25%). This is an essay of 1000 words on a medieval philosopher of your choosing, from any intellectual tradition. Your paper should introduce us to this thinker's major contributions, questions, and terms. Your argument should center on why this philosopher (or his/her thought) is relevant today. Group essays are encouraged, but please talk to me first.
5. Second Draft "Final" Essay on Two Thinkers (30%). This is an essay of 1500 words. It builds on the midterm essay and responds to the instructor's comments and suggestions. It also works into its argument some reference to a second medieval thinker, whether for comparison, contrast, or illustration. At least 300 words of this essay should concern the second philosopher you have brought into the discussion. Again, group essays are encouraged, but please talk to me first.

Please note the following:

- Word counts must be typed at the top of each document.
- Word counts may be within 10% of the assigned minimum/limit. That is, a 700-word midterm should be no less than 630 and no more than 770 words long.
- Appropriate Styles for all Assignments: MLA, Chicago, or APA. Your work must be consistent with one of these styles.
- All assignments, other than Thesis Paragraph Tests (which are submitted in a Canvas text box), must be submitted as Word documents. Google Docs and Pages both allow you to export your document to Word.

- The following scale determines your grade for the class (and hence for each assignment): 100-92.0% = A; 91.9-90.0% = A-; 89.9-87.0% = B+; 86.9-82.0% = B; 81.9-80.0% = B-; 79.9-77.0% = C+; 76.9-70% = C; 69.9-60.0% = D; 59.9% to below = F



### **Minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies**

PHH 3200 fulfills a requirement for UCF's Interdisciplinary Minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Students interested in earning a minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, or merely learning more about the program, should consult the website at [medieval.cah.ucf.edu](http://medieval.cah.ucf.edu). You may also contact Dr. Tison Pugh, Department of English, [tison.pugh@ucf.edu](mailto:tison.pugh@ucf.edu), for more information.

### **Philosophy Major and Minor**

PHH 3200 fulfills the "History of Philosophy" requirement for the philosophy major and minor.

### **Gordon Rule**

PHH 3200 is designated as a "Gordon Rule" course, which means that it must have at least four college-level writing assignments totaling at least 60% of the final grade. It must, also, have at least one multi-page writing assignment that demonstrates "substantial, developed writing," as well as one assignment that leads to revision after instructor feedback.

## Hours

In class activities: (28 classes x 75 minutes each)	35 hrs
Required Readings: (23 readings x 160 minutes each)	61.3 hrs
TPT Preparation and Writing (3 x 160 minutes each)	8.0 hrs
Writing of Midterm Essay	12.0 hrs
Writing of Final Essay	15.0 hrs
Total	131.3 hrs

## Learning Objectives

ESSENTIAL: Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).

- You will learn about the various philosophical traditions in medieval Islamic thought, as well as figures from Jewish and Christian philosophy.
- You will learn about movements, figures, and intellectual currents in medieval thought, with a focus on Islam.
- You will learn about the contemporary relevance of medieval philosophy and ethics and about current events germane to the themes of our class. This is especially true in the papers you will write.
- You will learn about approaches to the study of ethics, especially within Islam.
- You will learn about historical, philosophical, and social trends relevant to medieval writers, especially Muslim ones.
- You will also learn about the Western intellectual heritage, in a comparative context.

ESSENTIAL: Developing skill in expressing oneself in writing.

- By undertaking writing exercises that will help you learn to develop an argumentative thesis paragraph and develop that argument (TPTs and papers).
- By undertaking multiple revisions of a paper.
- By learning research techniques and library resources.
- By focusing on argument-driven writing.

IMPORTANT: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

- By reading a variety of texts, some of them quite difficult, and trying to understand not only the main argument, but often subtleties, ironies, and indications.
- By analyzing texts that present the culture and challenges of their author's time in complex ways.

IMPORTANT: Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures

- You will be exposed to philosophical and humanistic traditions in a comparative context.
- You will interact with ideas and histories often unknown by American undergraduates.
- You will engage with some of the most important issues facing medieval thinkers, many of which become incredibly important to theologians and mystics as well.
- You will consider Islam as a humanistic tradition.

**Due Dates**

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 WEEK 01	7	8  INTRODUCTION	9	10  QURAN and ISLAM	11
13 WEEK 02	14	15 MU‘TAZILITES PIW, pp. 3-18	16	17  KINDĪ PIW, pp. 19-32  In class: Portions of ch. 2, from <i>al-Kindī</i> , Peter Adamson	18
20 WEEK 03	21	22 RĀZĪ (and GALEN) PIW, pp. 48-62  Also: Yaḥyā ibn ‘Adī (Griffith), <i>The Reformation of Morals</i> , pp. 29-45.	23	24 ALFARABI PIW, pp. 63-76  Reading: Parens, <i>An Islamic Philosophy of Virtuous Religions</i> , pp. 29-53 and 85-97.  <b>Test#1 due on Canvas FRIDAY at 11:59pm ♣</b>	25
27 WEEK 04	28	29 ETHICAL LITERATURE Including Brethren of Purity, Miskawayh, and Yaḥyā ibn ‘Adī PIW, pp. 91-105  Also: “Case of Animals versus Man,” pp. 63-75, 115-118, 199-201, and 311-316. Please print the file in its entirety.	30	31 ISLAMIC ATOMISM (THE ASH‘ARIS) PIW, pp. 106-112	

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 WEEK 05	4	5  AVICENNA PIW, pp. 113-125	6	7  AVICENNA PIW, pp. 126-139  Tusi, <i>Namat Nine</i> , pp. 185-205.	8
10 WEEK 06	11	12 AL-GHAZALI PIW, pp. 140-153  <i>Al-Ghazali, Marvels of the Heart</i> (pp. 21-56)	13	14  AQUINAS  Read: Patrick Clark, "Is Martyrdom Virtuous?," pp. 141-154.  <b>Test#2 due on Canvas FRIDAY at 11:59pm ♣</b>	15
17 WEEK 07	18	19 JEWISH PHILOSOPHY (with MAIMONIDES) PIW, pp. 33-47	20	21 JEWISH PHILOSOPHY  PIW, pp. 236-255  In class: "Medieval Philosophy" pp. 162-179	22
24 WEEK 08	25	26 BOETHIUS and GERSONIDES On Prescience *Online Class*  Read: John Marenbon, <i>Medieval Philosophy</i> pp. 93-105	27	28 DUNS SCOTUS *Online Class*  Read: Ingham, <i>The Philosophical Vision</i> , pp. 4-9 and 146-152. Read: Wolter and Frank, <i>Duns Scotus on the Will &amp; Morality</i> , pp. 151-162.  <b>FIRST ESSAY DUE ON MON. 3/4 at 11:59pm</b>	

**FINE PRINT: Academic Integrity**

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <<http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the

instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity <<http://academicintegrity.org>>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <<http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>>.

### March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 WEEK 09	4 ♣	5 IBN ṬUFAYL  PIW pp. 171-178  Also: Ibn Tufayl, <i>Ḥayy ibn Yaḡzān</i> pp. 102-115, 130-140, and 155-166.	6	7 IBN ṬUFAYL	8
10 WEEK 10	11	12 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	13	14 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	15
17 WEEK 11	18	19 SUHRAWARDI  PIW pp. 316-329  <i>The Polished Mirror</i> , pp. 127-149	20	21 IBN AL-'ARABĪ  PIW pp. 194-200  In class: <i>Sufi Path of Knowledge</i> , pp. 8-19	22
24 WEEK 12	25	26 IBN AL-'ARABĪ  Read: <i>Bezels of Wisdom</i> , Ch. 1 pp. 47-57.	27	28 RUMI  Read: <i>Spiritual Verses, Mathnawī</i> (Alan Williams), pp. 7-8, 88-89, 102-116, and 122-133.	29

#### **FINE PRINT: Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating**

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct.

Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>>.

**Course Accessibility Statement**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <<http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/>> (Ferrell Commons 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
WEEK 13	1	2 DANTE  Read: Battistoni and Hall, "Dante and the Three Religions," pp. 249-266.	3	4 AVERROES  PIW pp. 179-193  Optional: Robinson, <i>Islamic Civ.</i> , pp. 169-177  <b>Test#3 due on Canvas FRIDAY at 11:59pm ♣</b>	5
7 WEEK 14	8	9  DIVINE LOVE  Lumbard, <i>Ahmad al-Ghazali, Remembrance, and the Metaphysics of Love</i> , pp. 79-108 and 162-184.	10	11  MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY TODAY: Virtue Ethics  Read: Anscombe, "Modern Moral Philosophy," pp. 1-16.	12
14 WEEK 15	15	16  MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY TODAY: Neotraditionalism  Read: Nasr, <i>Man and Nature</i> , Ch. 2, pp. 51-75	17	18  CONCLUSIONS  <i>Final Paper Workshop</i> . Please bring <b>three copies</b> of a draft of your paper to class.	19
21 FW	22	23 FINALS WEEK	24	25  FINAL DRAFT DUE ON THURSDAY at 3:59pm ♣  <i>No exceptions</i>	26

## **FINE PRINT: Campus Safety Statement**

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at [http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html).
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

## **Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses**

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

## **Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities**

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf>

## **Religious Observances**

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>.

## **Deployed Active Duty Military Students**

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.