THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
METROPOLITAN SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MRE 275-01C Medieval Christian Tradition
Spring 2017
Undergraduate Syllabus

Credit Hours: 3

Classroom: Pangborn G035
Meeting Schedule:
March 1-April 26, 2017 on Wednesdays from 5:30-9:45 PM; No class on March 8 and March 22

Instructor contact information:
Carlos Taja, Ph.D. Cand.
Email: 90taja@cua.edu
Office Hours: After class or during the break

Course Description:
An intensive course in the liturgy, thinking, and development of the Medieval Church, and its legacy today. Prerequisite: MRE 175.

Background Description:
The medieval Christian tradition is responsible for the founding of universities, hospitals, and is considered one of the most important periods of Christianity for understanding the emergence of Christianity in politics and public statements of faith. The main focus of the course is to give a theological overview of medieval Christian theology and philosophy based on a close reading of specific medieval thinkers. The Middle Ages are considered a transitional period from pagan society to Christendom. Foundational contributions of Christianity to Western culture took place during this period, such as the birth of universities, mendicant communities, languages, religious art/music, architecture styles, politics, philosophy and science.

Instructional Methods:
This seven-week course is delivered in an accelerated format. The class lectures will serve as the main teaching vehicle, supported by the assigned readings. Class attendance and participation are important. The course will have three homework assignments, three quizzes, class attendance/participation and a (take home) final exam.

Required Text:
An Introduction to Medieval Theology by Rik Van Nieuwenhove
Publisher: Cambridge University Press
Materials Provided Through Blackboard (https://blackboard.cua.edu/):
- *Saint Augustine Confessions* by St. Augustine
- *On Christian Teaching* by St. Augustine
- *Anselm of Canterbury the Major Works* by St. Anselm
- *Holy Teaching: Introducing the Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas Aquinas

Libraries:
The CUA Libraries' wide range of resources and services, including databases, online journals, and FAQs are on the main web site. For assistance on papers and assignments, consult the research guides or schedule an appointment with a subject librarian.

Course Goals:
The course will present the medieval Christian Church and her contribution to theological questions about the Holy Trinity, why Christ died, interpretation of Scripture, God’s existence, the relationship between faith and reason, human nature after Original Sin, as well as the theological and philosophical disputed questions various theologians/philosophers were involved in. Thinkers such as Augustine, Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Lombard, Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure will be studied on thematic topics.

Goals for Student Learning:
At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to trace the significance of the medieval Church in relation Jesus Christ and the early Church. The student will also learn the significant impact of the medieval Christian tradition for our times. Through lectures and assigned reading, the student will acquire a deeper understanding of medieval theology in relation to questions of faith, the Church, Scripture and philosophy.

Course Requirements:
- 3 quizzes (in class) – 25%
- 3 homework assignments posted through BlackBoard – 20%
- Class Attendance/Participation – 20%
- Final Exam (Take home) – 35%

Expectations and policies:
Since there are only 7 classes in this accelerated semester, class attendance is very important. Students are expected to attend, participate and make every effort to be on time for all classes. *Missing more than 2 classes will result in a 0 for class participation*, unless a doctor’s note can be provided. In the event of an absence on the day of a quiz, a zero will be given as the grade for that quiz, unless a doctor’s note can be provided excusing the absence. Only with a doctor’s note will the student be allowed to make up a quiz either before class begins or during the class break. The homework assignments and final exam should be turned on the due date. Every day the homework and final exam are late, the student will lose a letter grade after they are graded.

Academic Integrity:
There is no group work in the class; therefore, you should not collaborate with classmates on work that is to be submitted for an individual grade. For more information about what academic integrity means at CUA, including your responsibilities and rights, visit http://integrity.cua.edu.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support (dss.cua.edu) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Academic Support Services:**
The university’s primary academic support resources are located on the 2nd floor of the Pryzbyla Center. These affiliated offices and services include:

- **Kenneth Killiany** is MSPS’s internal writing tutor who provides individualized writing support. He can be reached at killiany@cu.edu. Please put “Metro SPS Writing Help” in the subject line.

- **The Center for Academic Success** provides academic support services for all students through a broad base of programs and services, including Tutoring Services, Workshops, Academic Coaching, Individual Skills Meetings, Peer Mentoring, and more.  
  **Phone:** (202) 319-5655  
  **Email:** cua-academicsuccess@cua.edu  
  **Web:** success.cua.edu

- **Disability Support Services** provides programs and services designed to support and encourage the integration of students with disabilities into the mainstream of the university community.  
  **Phone:** (202) 319-5211  
  **Email:** cua-disabilityservices@cua.edu  
  **Web:** dss.cua.edu

- **The Counseling Center** provides free individual and group counseling services, psychiatric consultation, alternative testing, and emergency services to CUA students. In addition, we provide consultation services and outreach programs to the CUA community. Appointments can be scheduled in person in 127 O’Boyle Hall, or by phone.  
  **Phone:** (202) 319-5765  
  **Web:** counseling.cua.edu

**Assessment**

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**University grades:**
The University grading system is available at [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II) for undergraduates. Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on [http://cardinalstation.cua.edu](http://cardinalstation.cua.edu).

**Course Schedule:**

**Please take note of the dates for QUIZZES, H.W. assignments, and the Final Exam**

March 1- Class Topic: From Jesus Christ to St. Augustine of Hippo, the Church, the state, theology and philosophy
- READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp. 1-37
- H.W. - Blackboard reflection after reading pp. 3-8 of St. Augustine’s *Confessions*

March 8- NO CLASS

March 15- Class Topic: Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries: St. Anselm of Canterbury and Monasticism
- READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp.83-98
- H.W. - Blackboard reflection after reading pp. 8-10 of St. Augustine’s *On Christian Teaching*

March 22- NO CLASS

March 29- QUIZ on St. Augustine and St. Anselm
Class Topic- The Victorines: Hugh of St. Victor and Richard of St. Victor; Peter Lombard, the Emergence of Systematic Theology
- READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp. 120-150
April 5- Class Topic: Peter Lombard, the Thirteenth Century and St. Thomas Aquinas
  • READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp. 151-178

April 12- QUIZ on the Victorines and Peter Lombard
Class Topic: St. Thomas Aquinas
  • READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp. 179-210 and (from BlackBoard) pp. 31-34 of Holy Teaching: Introducing the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas

April 19- QUIZ on St. Thomas Aquinas
Class Topic: St. Thomas and St. Bonaventure
  • READING FOR NEXT CLASS - Textbook pp. 211-224

April 26- FINAL EXAM (will be posted on BlackBoard at the end of class and due via email back to instructor by Saturday, April 29 at 2:00 PM **Do NOT post your exam on BlackBoard**
Class Topic: St. Bonaventure and Summary Review

Final Exam

Please note that the final exam will be posted on BlackBoard at the end of the final class. The student should save the final exam as a Microsoft Word document and email it back to the instructor (90taja@cua.edu) by Saturday, April 29 at 2:00 PM. *Do NOT post your exam on BlackBoard!

A student having an exam scheduling conflict such as:

1. two or more exams scheduled for the same time period
or 2. three or more exams scheduled for one day must report to her/his school’s Academic Dean's Office no later than fourteen calendar days before the end of classes. The dean will assist the student in rescheduling the exam(s) for the courses having the lowest enrollment(s). All make-up exams must be completed at the earliest possible time during the final examination period.

Bibliography

The Medieval Theologians edited by G.R. Evans
Published by Blackwell Publishing

The Sentences of Peter Lombard Books 1-4 translated by Giulio Silano
Published by Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies

The Treatise on the Divine Nature Summa Theologiae I 1-13 translated, with commentary by Brian J. Shanley, O.P

A Companion to Bonaventure edited by Jay M. Hammond, J.A. Wayne Hellmann and Jared Goff