



History of Philosophy I A | PIU11053

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	24 hours (20 lectures and 4 tutorials)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Paul O'Grady and Samantha Fazekas
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Module Outline:

Component 1 (Ancient Philosophy)

This component will offer an introduction to ancient philosophy. Specifically, we will focus on the commonalities and differences between Plato and Aristotle. To this end, we will first familiarize ourselves with the central tenets of Plato's thought: his definition of philosophy as the love of wisdom and the theory of forms. Then we will familiarize ourselves with the central tenets of Aristotle's thought: his distinction between potentiality and actuality, his conception of first principles, and his account of the human good.

Component 2 (Medieval Philosophy)

The time scale of medieval philosophy is very long, from Augustine (354-430ce) to William of Ockham (d. 1347). The philosophers of this period build on and developed the work of ancient philosophy, especially Plato and Aristotle, mediate through later Greek schools, such as Neoplatonism. Many of the major philosophers of the period were concerned with relating philosophy to the Abrahamic religious traditions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Given the diversity of figures and strands in this period, the course will begin and end with a survey of main movements but will focus on two figures in particular. We will begin with Augustine and examine how he brought Greek philosophy into dialogue with Christianity. We examine his great book, *The Confessions*, and look at his rejection of scepticism. We then turn to Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) and examine his general metaphysical system. Hence this component will examine a major epistemological position and a major metaphysical position from the medieval period.



Assessment:

1 Essay (end of module) 50% 1 Examination (end of module) 50%.

Students choose the component on which to write their essay and write their exam question on the other one.

The essay should be no more than 1000 words and is due on 5th December.

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature will be finalized at the beginning of the term.

Central texts for the first component will be excerpts from the following:

- Plato, *Symposium*, trans Jowett (Project Gutenberg E-Book 2013)
- Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, The Complete Works of Aristotle, trans. W.D. Ross ed. J. Barnes (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1984)
- Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, trans D.P. Chase (Project Gutenberg E-Book 2021)

Central texts for the second component will be excerpts from

- Augustine *Confessions*
- Aquinas *Summa Theologiae*