I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a survey of Medieval Christian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophy and covers the time period from 4th century CE to the 14th century CE. Its primary focus will be to examine key philosophical themes in the development of Medieval Philosophy, especially ethics, philosophical psychology, metaphysics, theology, and philosophical mysticism. We will explore a variety of topics including: the relationship between virtue and the will, soul and the intellect, faith and reason; the existence and attributes of God; the metaphysics of universals; and the experience of the divine. The course traces the historical development of these ideas as well as their philosophical nature. Consequently, while we will mainly study the authors in their chronological order, at times the topical character of the course will afford an opportunity to compare treatment of a particular theory by philosophers across the centuries and religious and cultural perspectives.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are:

- to develop student critical reasoning and analytical skills, improve student reading comprehension and writing skills;
- to acquaint the student with principal Medieval philosophers and movements;
- to understand fundamental philosophical issues and texts in their historical contexts;
- to instill an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the medieval philosophical tradition and its influence on both Modern Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophy.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to apply philosophical methods of inquiry and analysis to the study of cosmology, metaphysics, epistemology, natural science, and religion of the 4th century BCE through the 14th century CE and relate them to the social and cultural contexts in which they are rooted;
2. Students will be able to articulate how different philosophical traditions and schools within the medieval period in the fields of cosmology, metaphysics, epistemology, religion and ethics have come to be accepted, contested, changed, or abandoned by subsequent scholars of philosophy and religion;
3. Students will be able to evaluate the quality of information, claims, expressions, and interpretations;
4. Students will be able to construct coherent and sound arguments with support from multiple sources, including library resources and proper citations, that communicate what students have discovered;
5. Students will be able to analyze social issues as well as ethical dilemmas and choices that arise out of philosophical research, discoveries, and applications; and
6. Students will be able to analyze multiple forms and variations of human diversity found in belief systems and apply that knowledge to their own lives and to ways in which they could contribute purposefully to the wellbeing of their local communities, their nations, and the people of the world.

IV. TEXTS

Bosley & Tweedale, *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*

Other required reading assignments will be posted on iLearn.

V. REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and participation are required and count for 10% of the grade. There will be two tests. The first is a take-home essay test and counts for 40%, and the second is an in-class test and counts for 50% of the grade.

VI. TEACHING ASSISTANT

Julia Loo (julialoo@mail.sfsu.edu or somehopesnoregrets@yahoo.com), a Philosophy graduate student, is the teaching assistant. Her office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 2-3 pm, in the Philosophy lounge (HUM 392).

VII. WRITING ASSISTANCE

There are two free writing assistance centers on campus. Use the links below for more information.
1-Community Access & Retention Program (CARP): http://www.sfsu.edu/~Ecarp1
2-Learning Assistance Center (LAC): http://www.sfsu.edu/~Elac

VIII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Academic accommodation is available for students with disabilities. Please see the DISABILITY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE CENTER (HTTP://WWW.SFSU.EDU/~DPRC) in the Student Services Building 110 and talk to the instructor as soon as possible to discuss any accommodation that you may need for the course.

IX. PLAGIARISM

All work submitted for the course must be your own. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. For more details see: http://www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/plagiarism.html.
X. SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to revision.

I. INTRODUCTION

1: Mar 8: Introduction to Medieval Philosophy
   Hadot, “Philosophy as a Way of Life,” on iLearn.

II. ETHICS

2: Mar 13, 15: Alfarabi on the Ethical Education of the Philosopher:
   Alfarabi, The Attainment of Happiness, IV, on iLearn.

March 20, 22: No Class. Spring Recess

3: Mar 27, 29: Thomas Aquinas on the Will
   Aquinas on “Goodness and Badness in Outward Acts,” Basic Issues, pp. 517-23.

4: April 3: Midterm Short Paper Assignment (Take-home) Submitted and Discussed in Class

April 5: No Class. Pacific APA

April 10: Midterm Due in the Beginning of the Class

III. PSYCHOLOGY

5: Apr 10, 12: Alfarabi on the Intellect
   Alfarabi, On Intellect, on iLearn.
   Azadpur, “The Reception of the Notion of the Active Intellect in the Islamic Philosophical Tradition,” pp. 49-52.

6: Apr 17, 19: Maimonides on the Perfection of the Intellect and Prophecy
   Maimonides, Guide for the Perplexed, Part II, Chapters 34-38, on iLearn.

7: Apr 24: Aquinas on the Intellect and Prophecy
   Aquinas, Summa Theologica (Selections), on iLearn.
   Altmann’s “Maimonides and Thomas Aquinas: Natural or Divine Prophecy,” on iLearn.

IV. METAPHYSICS

8: Apr 26, May 1, 3: Theology and the Proofs of God’s Existence
   Aristotle’s Cosmological Argument, Basic Issues, pp. 88-94.
   St. Anselm’s Ontological Argument, Basic Issues, pp. 95-96.
   Kallenberg, “Praying for Understanding: Reading Anselm through Wittgenstein.”

V. MYSTICISM

9: May 8, 10: Beyond the Intellect

May 17: 8-10:30: Final Exam