## **History of Medieval Philosophy (Second-level Degree)**

## Prof. Paola Müller

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

On the basis of acquired knowledge from their first level degree, at the end of the course students will accomplish an advanced knowledge of theoretical and methodological tools for a critical and historical analysis of philosophical texts by authors from the Medieval Age, with reference to main concepts, forms of argumentation, and specific language. Students will read the texts in the original language and part of the readings in at least another EU language, besides Italian, focusing on the discipline lexicon. Students will refine their critical skills and independent judgement.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Anselm's ontological argument and Scotus’ coloration*. The problem of finding a proof, an *unum argumentum*, which demonstrates the existence of God regardless of sensible experience pervaded medieval thought starting with Anselmo d’Aosta's *Proslogion*. The course aims to analyse the Anselmian theory and its reception in the following centuries, and focuses on the well-known Scotus’ ‘coloration’ of the ontological argument according to the *Treatise on God as the first principle*, a significantly philosophical work.

***READING LIST***

Anselmo d’Aosta, *Proslogion*, edizione libera con testo latino a fronte

Duns Scoto, *Trattato sul primo principio*, a cura di P. Porro, Bompiani, Milano 2008.

Some texts of the medieval authors will be supplied in lectures by the lecturer and uploaded onto Blackboard.

Course notes and materials will be supplied by the lecturer in lectures and uploaded to Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is taught through lectures. The lecturer will read, translate, and discuss primary and secondary sources. The lecturer will be using IT tools (Word or Power Point conceptual maps and Blackboard). Students will submit papers on topics discussed with the lecturer. Students should actively participate in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed through an oral exam on course topics, hermeneutical and critical competences, and language skills. Top marks will go to students who show wide, deep and critical knowledge of the course topics and issues, as well as autonomous and original usage of critical thinking tools and specific language, and the ability to work appropriately on the texts. Passing grades will go to students who show basic knowledge of the topics studied in class, the ability to understand and analyse philosophical texts, and simple and basic presentation skills on the course topics. Students will not pass the exam if they show incomplete and superficial knowledge on course topics presented in an incoherent and unstructured way as well as inadequate language. Students may also prepare a paper to be agreed and discussed with the lecturer.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is advisable that students have a general knowledge of the History of Medieval Philosophy. Attendance is highly recommended.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's Blackboard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.