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

## Prof. Paola Müller

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

The course aims to allow students to achieve, on the basis of the knowledge they acquired with their first level degree, an advanced understanding of the 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***

*Metaphysics and speculative science in Thomas Aquinas* In order to determine the subject and the status of metaphysics intended as a discipline, that is to say as a theoretical science, it is interesting to refer to Thomas’ unfinished commentary on Boethius’ *De Trinitate*, and especially on questions V and VI, focused on speculative science. It reveals a clear duality of the subject of Aristotelian metaphysics (on one side the science of being as such, and, on the other, the science of what is immobile and separate), which is the origin and the goal of all our knowledge.

***READING LIST***

Tommaso, *Commenti a Boezio*, edited by P. Porro, Bompiani, Milan 2007.

Stephen L. Brock (edited by), *Tommaso d’Aquino e l’oggetto della metafisica*, Armando Editore, Rome 2004.

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.

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.