**History of Medieval Philosophy**

Course Code: PHI 2203

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course description:***

The medieval period is taken here in a wide sense spanning from the 2nd to the 7th century. This period is introduced by an age of philosophical-religious thought centred in Alexandria of Egypt and represented by Neo-platonism and Plotinus. As the new Christian faith spreads, its thinkers try to confront it with rationality until the African philosopher St. Augustine finally blends faith and reason, introducing a new age of philosophy climaxing in scholasticism with, among others, the names of J.S. Erigena, Anselm, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, J. Duns Scotus, R. Bacon and W. of Ockham. This period debates great issues related to metaphysics and epistemology and places a great effort in trying to build a comprehensive and unitary system of thought. Faith has a great influence over the philosophy but at the same time philosophy has paramount importance in learning and culture. The medieval period marks also the emergence of Islamic philosophy, with Avicenna and Averroes as its major representatives, which was also characterized at this time by the attempt to reconcile faith and reason.

***Course Objective***

To raise thinkers who can evaluate the major philosophical ideas that shaped the medieval period which was instrumental in directing and shaping the modern mind and society.

***Learning Objectives***

Students are expected to:

1. Gain knowledge of the ideas of the major medieval philosophers
2. Learn to evaluate the ideas of the medieval thinkers
3. Be able to relate how medieval philosophy affected and shaped modern thinking
4. Be able to relate medieval philosophical ideas with contemporary society

***Course Outline***

1. Early Medieval influences
2. The scholastic method
3. S. Augustine
4. Byzantine philosophy
5. Arabic philosophy
6. Maimonides
7. Boethius
8. Anselm of Canterbury
9. Bonaventure of Bagnoreggio
10. Thomas Aquinas
11. William of Ockham

***Methodology***

Lectures, tutorials, guest lecturers, group work, individual presentations

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Kolak & G. Thomson, The Longman Standard History of Medieval Philosophy, 2008
2. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, On Being and Essence
3. Thomas Aquinas Summa contra Gentiles
4. William of Ockham, *Summa logicae*