

St Jerome's in the University of Waterloo
HUMSC 201: Great Dialogues: Reason and Faith
Prof John Greenwood
Office Hours: SJU 2112 – Tues, Thurs 1:30-2:30pm or by appt
Fall 2018

Week	Text & Lecture & Discussion	
I	Sept 6	Polkinghorne: Selections from: <i>Serious Talk: science and religion in dialogue</i>
II	11 13	Providence and Fate: Boethius: <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i>
III	18 20	'Proofs' of the Existence of God: St Anselm: <i>Proslogium</i> : 'Ontological' proof (excerpt) St Thomas Aquinas: from <i>Summa Theologica</i> (excerpt)
IV	25 27	Faith Beyond Reason (I): Duns Scotus, Ockham's 'razor' (excerpts) Faith Beyond Reason (II): Meister Eckhart (excerpt)
V	Oct 2 4	Discourse on the Rational Will Dante: <i>The Divine Comedy</i> : Purgatory (excerpt)
VI	11	Reason Under Siege: Donne: Selected Poetry (including the 'Holy Sonnets')
VII	16 18	- ESSAY #1 DUE -
VIII	23 25	Experience Over Reason: Francis Bacon: <i>Novum Organum</i> : 'Idols' (excerpt)
IX	30 Nov 1	Temptation By Reason: Milton: <i>Paradise Lost</i> : Book IX: 'The Fall'
X	6 8	Doubting and Certainty: Descartes: <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>
XI	13 15	Unsettling the Human: Hume: <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> (on cause & effect) (excerpts)
XII	20 22	Sense and Sensibility: Austen: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (excerpts)
XIII	27 29	Course Summary and Conclusions Exam Review - ESSAY #2 DUE -
	Dec 6-21	Final Exam Period

Course Texts:

Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, ed. Victor Watts (Penguin, 1999)

ISBN 0140447806

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, ed. John Cottingham (Cambridge, 1996)

ISBN 0521558182

Greenwood, John, *Reading the Humanities: How I Lost My Modernity* (Rock's Mills, 2017)

9781772440324

Selected Readings

Course Outline

What is the nature of and relationship between reason and faith? Does the fundamental distinction lead to other distinctions like explanation and revelation, the rational and the intuitive? What impact do such modes of thought have on notions such as providence, perception and truth? What comparisons and contrasts can be drawn between each mode and prevailing modern perspectives? This course investigates how a dialogue with core texts (e.g. Boethius, Aquinas, Dante, Bacon, Milton, Descartes, Hume, Austen) offers ways of understanding these issues.

The course fosters and furthers the debate set in motion in HUMSC 101 (Reflection and Action) and HUMSC 102 (Politics and Morality) between major opposing intellectual points of view within and concerning western culture. Reason and Faith pose two contrasting modes of aspiring to truth: the rational mode of explanation and understanding, and the intuitive mode of revelational experience and the evidence of 'things not seen'.

The course explores the consequential impact of changing modes of thought on views of providence, perception and truth (in dialogue, poetry, essay, philosophy and novel), from Boethius' early 6th century attempt at synthesis in his 'Consolation', through various intellectual challenges to each mode posed by significant voices in the Medieval and Renaissance periods, to the discreet separation of Austen's early 19th century 'Sense and Sensibility'.

In addition to the dialogue between the rational and the intuitive, in-class sessions will invite dialogue between the modern and the historical, the this-worldly and the other-worldly, the Classical and the Christian, and help distinguish the different layers of complexity that have been added to Greek and Christian ideas since the early centuries of the Common Era.

Course Objectives

To develop an understanding of two primary modes of thought and experience as they developed in the pre-modern era and as they present challenges both to each other and to modern thinking.

To evaluate alternative modes of thinking as presented by their various western cultural inheritors and as they affect ways of perceiving and living in our world today.

To hone the ability, in writing and speaking, of presenting and responding to dialogical premises from varied personal and inherited points of view.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluation will include two discussion papers, 8 double-spaced pages in length (2 X 25%) that engage key components of the dialogue established by the texts and excerpts on the syllabus, focusing on the views of authors of particular interest to the student, four in-class written assignments (4 X 5% = 20%) that are defences of, or arguments for, a particular position considered in class, and a final exam (30%).

Regular class attendance keeps your awareness of the ongoing dialogue sharp and timely, while doing the required reading beforehand helps you focus your own independent views of the authors' arguments. Additional assistance with the course material, essay topics etc is also available during office hours or by appointment.

Essay Submission Dates

ESSAY #1 - Week VII (Oct 18)

ESSAY #2 - Week XIII (Nov 29) (last class)

Policy on Late Submissions

Essay due dates as shown in the syllabus are for the convenience of both the student, in submitting the work, and the professor, in grading and remarking on it in a useful, progressive and timely fashion. No 'late penalties' apply, but 'on time' submissions earn the privilege of revision and resubmission for a revised grade with the benefit of the professor's remarks and guidance. Electronic submissions are *not* accepted.

Policy on Missed In-class Participation Assignments

Missed written in-class assignments may be completed in another class, but at the risk of distraction from other scheduled class activities.

UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations

(www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:

A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the 'University of Waterloo Verification of Illness' form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at

www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html

If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he or she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.

The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the university community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.

Elective travel arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

Other Information

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work or collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St Jerome's University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his or her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to Policy 71 – Student Petitions and Grievances. In such a case, contact Dr Scott Kline (scott.kline@uwaterloo.ca), Associate Dean of St Jerome's University.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding or penalty in a decision made under Policy 71 – Student Discipline or Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact Dr John Rempel (jrempel@uwaterloo.ca), Appeals Officer of St Jerome's University.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW) <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first lecture of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: Students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want their assignment screened by Turnitin. See <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.