Great Medieval Philosophers

Start date 18 April 2020          End date 18 April 2020

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor Dr Karim Esmail          Course code 1920NDX017

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

For further information on this course, please contact the Lifelong Learning team Zara Kuckelhaus, Fleur Kerrecoe shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 764637

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Karim Esmail BA MPhil MPhil PhD
Dr Esmail lectures at both Oxford and Cambridge. He has been a Research Fellow at Oxford, Visiting Fellow at Harvard, and Burney Student at Cambridge, where he won the Gregg Bury Prize. He has also been awarded a British Academy Studentship.

Alongside international articles, he is the author of two clear, original and best-selling philosophical works on God's nature and existence: God A brief philosophical introduction (2016); God A brief philosophical introduction II (2019)

Dr Esmail has taught courses for the Institute in a number of areas. They include the following: Great Ancient and Medieval Philosophers; Great Modern Philosophers; The Nature of Knowledge; The Problem of Evil; Philosophy of Religion.

Classes with Dr Esmail consist of clearly structured lectures and discussion. Students are assisted to begin to engage critically with the subject.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:15</td>
<td>Introduction; Augustine</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>11:45 – 13:00</td>
<td>Anselm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:15</td>
<td>Aquinas</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15</td>
<td>Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45 – 17:00</td>
<td>Al Ghazali</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Day-school ends</td>
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Course syllabus

Aims:

- To provide an understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of four great medieval philosophers, viz. Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, and al Ghazali;
- To enable students to begin to engage critically with their thought.

Content:

After an introduction, the first session considers Saint Augustine on the matter of God and evil in (especially) his work *On the Free Choice of the Will*.

The second session considers Saint Anselm’s ontological argument for the existence of God in the second chapter of his *Proslogion*.

The third session considers Saint Thomas Aquinas on, among other things, form, matter and change and on God in (especially) his *Summa Theologiae*.

The fourth and final session considers al Ghazali on, among other things, God and the matter of occasionalism in his *Moderation in Belief* and *The Healing*.

In each session, there is critical reflection on the thought of these philosophers.

Presentation of the course:

Lectures (principally) and discussion.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should have:

- An understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of four great medieval philosophers, viz. Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, and al Ghazali;
- An ability to begin to engage critically with their thought.
Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher and date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McCrade, A.S</td>
<td>The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy</td>
<td>Cambridge, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaman, O.</td>
<td><em>An Introduction to Classical Islamic Philosophy</em></td>
<td>Cambridge, 2002</td>
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Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website: http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 25 September 2019