

## 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](mailto:shortcourses@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 764637

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### 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.

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## Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Introduction; Augustine</b>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Anselm</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Aquinas</b>
15:15	Tea
15:45 – 17:00	<b>Al Ghazali</b>
17:00	Day-school ends

## 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.

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## Reading and resources list

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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 \*

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Kenny, A.,	<i>A New History of Western Philosophy</i>	Oxford, 2012
McCrade, A.S	<i>The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy</i>	Cambridge, 2003
Leaman,O.	<i>An Introduction to Classical Islamic Philosophy</i>	Cambridge, 2002

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## Additional information

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### 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](mailto: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