Course Requirements
Presentations (2) 20 points each
Each student will be responsible to lead class twice throughout the term. While I am calling these ‘presentations’, the main goal is to lead the class through a discussion of the relevant material. Formal presentations are not necessary (though fine if that is your preference). At least 48 hours prior to the start of class on a day you present you are required to post on canvas 2-4 study questions that will be central to your “presentation.”

Papers: (2) 20 points each
You are required to write two 5-7 page papers based on the texts covered in this class. More details are on Canvas.

Class Participation/Discussion Questions 20 points
This class will be run in a seminar format and as such participation in class discussion is a central component of the course. In addition, you are required to come to class prepared to discuss the study questions from other student presentations. I reserve the right to require written answers to these questions if I deem it conducive to class discussion.

All assignments must be turned in in class.

Course Texts:

Required
1. Duns Scotus - Metaphysician Purdue University Press, ‘DSM
2. Ockham - Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, And Future Contingents, Hackett ‘PGF’
3. Ockham - Philosophical Writings: A Selection ‘OPW’
4. Descartes The Passions of the Soul and Other Late Philosophical Writings Oxford ‘DPS’

Required and available online through UVU Library
5. Duns Scotus by Richard Cross
6. The Philosophical Vision of John Duns Scotus, by Mary Beth Ingham and Mechthild Dreyer
8. William Ockham on Metaphysics, by Jenny Pelletier
9. Essays on Descartes, by Paul Hoffman
10. Women Philosophers of the Seventeenth Century, by Jacqueline Broad
11. Descartes Among the Scholastics, by Roger Ariew
12. Descartes’ System of Natural Philosophy, by Stephen Gaukroger,

On Hold at Library
13. The Philosophy of William of Ockham, by Armand Maurer

Course Description
Catalog: Provides an in-depth look at a great figure in Philosophy across the topics of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy, aesthetics, and other themes. Addresses the contribution of the thinker to the history of Philosophy. Repeatable up to 12 credit hours with different topics.

Class Specific: This course is an examination of the Philosophical thought, especially metaphysics broadly construed, of Scotus, Ockham and Descartes, as well as the Elisabeth-Descartes correspondence.
Course Objectives:
1. Demonstrate communication skills, especially clear and concise writing.
2. Demonstrate ability to critically read and understand the central texts from the great philosopher(s) featured in the course.
3. Demonstrate ability to critically engage the central texts from the great philosopher(s) featured in the course.
4. Demonstrate an in-depth and sophisticated knowledge some significant aspect(s) of the great philosopher(s) featured in the course.
5. Demonstrate ability to write a substantive piece of scholarship engaging some component of the thought of the great philosopher(s) featured in the course.
6. Demonstrate excellence in analytic and critical thinking skills in oral and written work.

Grading Scale
A = 94% and above  A- = 90 – 93  B+ = 87 – 89  B = 84 – 86
B- = 80 – 83  C+ = 77 – 79  C = 74 – 76  C- = 70 – 73
D+ = 67 – 69  D = 64 – 66  D- = 60 – 63  E (Failing) = Below 60

Attention Students With Disabilities: Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the UVU Accessibility Services Department (ASD), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the ASD office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu or text 385-208-2677.

Academic Dishonesty
Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the UVU Policies and Procedures, see especially IV-D. Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and honesty in all its forms, including but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism as defined hereafter:

1. **Cheating** is the act of using or attempting to use or providing others with unauthorized information, materials or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to or taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying other’s academic work.

2. **Plagiarism** is the act of appropriating any other person’s or group’s ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and passing them off as the product of one’s own work in any academic exercise or study.

Please cite any and every source you use in completing an assignment (including all articles, books, websites, etc.). The punishment of any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be determined by the professor and depending upon the severity of the offense can range from failing the assignment to failing the entire course. Please see me right away if you ever have any questions or uncertainties regarding plagiarism.

You will receive one warning for using a cell phone in class. With each subsequent infraction your final grade will be penalized with increasingly severe penalty.

E-mail Etiquette:
E-mails should begin with a salutation and end with a closing. You should identify yourself and include your class and section. Please use complete sentences.
Reading Schedule:

**Week 1: August 21-25: Background**
Monday, August 21: Introduction to the class, Syllabus

Wednesday, August 23: Background: Aristotle “Aristotle’s Metaphysics” by S. Marc Cohen; “Henry of Ghent” by Pasquale Porro; and *The Philosophical Vision of John Duns Scotus* Chapter 1;

**Week 2: August 28-Septmeber 1: Scotus, Life, Works and the Nature of Metaphysics, God**
Monday, August 28: DSM Chapters 1 and 2; *The Philosophical Vision of John Duns Scotus* Chapters 2 and 3
Wednesday, August 30: DSM Chapter 3, *Duns Scotus* chapters 1-2

**Week 3: September 4-8: Scotus, God continued**
Monday, September 4: NO CLASS LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Wednesday, September 6: DSM Chapter 4, *Duns Scotus* chapters 3-4

**Week 4: September 11-15: Scotus Epistemology, Univocal Concepts**
Monday, September 11: DSM Chapter 5, *The Philosophical Vision of John Duns Scotus* Chapter 4
Wednesday, September 13: DSM Catchup Day

**Week 5: September 18-22: Scotus on the Will, Morality**


**Week 6: September 25-29: Scotus on the Will, Morality**

Wednesday, September 27: Engaged Learning Day, Attend Ethics Awareness Week.

**Week 7: October 2-6: Ockham Life and Works**
Monday, October 2: “William of Ockham” Spade and Panaccio, Sections 1-3, available here; OPW introduction, and Section I.

Wednesday, October 4: Engaged learning Day 2, Attend Anne Peterson talk? October 5th, 3-5pm.

**Week 8: October 9-13: Ockham Cognition and Universals**
Monday, October 9: OPW 18—34, Susan Brower-Toland “Intuition, Externalism, and Direct Reference in Ockham” here.

Wednesday, October 11: OPW 35-45 and Marilyn McCord Adams, “Ockham on Identity and Distinction” available on “Project Muse”.

**Week 9: October 16-20: Ockham Being and God**

**Week 10: October 23-27: Ockham God and Predestination**

Wednesday, October 25: PGF 34-53, begin PGF 1-33.

Paper Workshop Day 1

**Week 11: October 30-November 3: Ockham and Predestination cont.**
Monday, October 30: PGF 54-79, continues PGF 1-33

Wednesday, November 1: PGF 80-114, finish PGF 1-33.

**Paper 1 due**

**Week 12: November 6-10: Scholastic Context of Descartes, Divine Freedom; Descartes-Elisabeth**
Monday, November 6: Introduction to Descartes; Descartes Among the Scholastics, Chapter 2; Creation Doctrine texts (posted to Canvas); Lilli Alanen, “Descartes, Duns Scotus and Ockham on Omnipotence and Possibility” available on Project Muse.

Wednesday, November 8: Descartes-Elisabeth Letters 1-25 in DPS; Lisa Shapiro “Princess Elizabeth and Descartes: the Union of the Soul and Body and the Practice of Philosophy” in *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 7, available [here](#).

**Week 13: November 13-17: Descartes-Elisabeth cont; Freewill.**

Wednesday, November 15: Descartes on Freedom, Special Guest Speaker, Lex Newman, University of Utah. Reading TBD.

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 20-25 UVU Holiday

**Week 14: November 27-December 1: Descartes’ Principles, Ontology, Distinction and Freedom**
Monday, November 27: Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy* 1-36 in DPS; *Descartes’ System of Natural Philosophy*, Chapter 2-3;

Wednesday, November 29:
Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy* 37-76; *Essays on Descartes* Chapter 3.

**Week 15: December 4-8: Descartes on the Passions**
Monday, December 4: Descartes *Passions of the Soul* part 1; *Essays on Descartes* Chapter 8.

Wednesday, December 6: Descartes catchup day. General course conclusions.

Paper Workshop Day 2

**Final Exam Period, December 13th 1pm.** Final Papers Due.