
MAJOR DEBATES AND CONTROVERSIES IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

2 KREDITES, ANGOL NYELVŰ, SZABADON VÁLASZTHATÓ SZEMINÁRIUM A SAPIENTIÁN
NAPPALI I. FÉLÉV; IDŐPONT ÉS HELYSZÍN: KÉSŐBBI EGYEZTETÉS NYOMÁN!

Lecturer: Dr. Whitehouse Domonkos OFM (domonkos@ferencesek.hu)

Prerequisite: Szükséges a középfokú angol nyelvtudás, amire ráépülhet az angol nyelvű szemináriumi munka.

First Consultation: I will meet students that have enrolled for the course on Tuesday, 7 September, at 12.30, Room 520 ("Fundamentális teológia tanszék"). We will then agree upon the best day and time for our weekly session. At this consultation, I will also hand out the booklet of required readings for the course and answer any questions that students might still have.

Aim of Course: To introduce students to some of the major debates and controversies that arose at the University of Paris in the second half of the 13th century. The course will not only seek to develop an appreciation of the richness and vitality of intellectual life in this important period, but also to improve the academic speaking and writing skills of the students who take the course.

Topics: After a consideration at what life was like at the at the University of Paris in the second half of the 13th century, five major debates (disputationes) will be studied in detail: 1. Was the world created or has it existed eternally; 2. What is the nature of "matter"?; 3. What is the relationship between the human soul and body?; 4. Which is the more important human rational power: the intellect or the (higher) will?; 5. What causes human sin? These topics cross three mediaeval disciplinary fields: natural philosophy or theology (1 and 2); Philosophical anthropology (3 and 4), and ethics (5). For want of time, I have omitted a major epistemological issue in the period: Do we know the external world directly or indirectly? On student request, I could include this topic rather than another on the list above.

Requirements: Students will be asked (1) to prepare arguments either for or against a proposition within each of the five topical areas above. This task will be based upon the set readings, and will culminate in a class disputatio held at the close of each topic. (2) Students will write their own short quaestio (argumentative essay in scholastic mode) in which they present arguments for and against a topic, and come to their own conclusion (determinatio). The final practical mark will be based on these two tasks: one primarily oral and the other largely written. As the course also seeks to develop academic language skills in a foreign language, attendance is indispensable.

Set Readings: I will put together a collection of readings from various sources. Occasionally I will prepare a draft translation of texts available only in the Latin. The following studies and collections are especially useful: BOSLEY, RICHARD N. – MARTIN N. TWEEDALE (eds.): *Basic Issues in Medieval Philosophy*, Broadview Press, Ontario, 2006²; DALES, RICHARD C.: *Medieval Discussions of the Eternity of the World*, Brill's Studies in Intellectual History 18., Brill, Leiden, 1990; HYMAN, ARTHUR – JAMES J. WALSH – THOMAS WILLIAMS (eds.): *Philosophy in the Middle Ages*, Hackett, Indianapolis, 2010³; WEIJERS, OLGA: *In Search of Truth. A History of Disputational Techniques from Antiquity to Early Modern Times*, Brepols, Turnhout, 2013, esp. Parts III–VI, 71–176.