Université catholique de Louvain

Philosophical texts II: Medieval philosophical texts

3.0 credits

LFILO1325

2010-2011

30.0 h

2q

Teacher(s) :	Counet Jean-Michel ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The course requires a direct and frequent exposure to Medieval texts. We shall either study a particular text (from beginning to end or jumping around in it), or extracts from different authors addressing a specific problem. We shall examine these texts from a historical perspective. We shall shell out their sources, insisting on the fact that Medieval thinkers believed they were on the threshold of different traditions and heritages: biblical and theological, patristical, philosophica (Ancient, Arab, and Jewish thought). From a doctrinal point of view, we shall also show what was innovative in these texts wher they were written and in their cultural context. If the need arises, we shall underline their posterity, especially their influence or Modern thought. On top of this historical approach, we shall also examine the argumentative strategies of the texts themselves, highlighting their logical and conceptual rigor, which makes for excellent training for the students' reading skills. The texts will be explained by the lecturer: the goal is to give examples of reading methods and to indicate the necessary tools for a proper reading of these texts. The students will be asked to do complementary readings.
Aims :	The aim of the course is to teach the students how to "read" Medieval texts on their own. In other words, by overcoming the cultural distance separating us from the texts, the students should come to understand the workings and uses of the texts and the methods necessary for explaining them, thus providing the capacity for further independent research in this area. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s, can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".
Content :	Medieval Philosophical texts will be devoted to a reading of Nicholas of Cusa (101-1464). The aim is to show how this disciple of pseudo-Dionysius and master Eckhart has built up an impressive philosophical opus, founded on the two main concepts o Learned Ignorance and Coincidence of the Opposites. This synthesis can be seen as the very start of modernity. The most famous works (Learned Ignorance, On Surmises, The Layman on Mind, The Peace in Faith, The Not-Other, etc.) will be introduced bu the lectures will focus on the Vision of God, a mystical treatise. Its philosophical content is very rich indeed and ino better angle o sight could be chosen to get a look on Nicholas& squo; doctrine as a whole.
Cycle and year of study :	 Certificat universitaire en langue, littérature et civilisation latines Certificat universitaire en philosophie (approfondissement) Bachelor in Philosophy Bachelor in Psychology and Education: General Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures Bachelor in Ancient languages and Literatures: Classics Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: Classics Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Economics and Management Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Indoren Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Motor skills : General Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: General Bachelor in Political Sciences: General Bachelor in Political Sciences: General Bachelor in Notern Languages and Literatures: Oriental Studies Bachelor in Mathematics Bachelor in Mathematics Bachelor in Biomedicine Bachelor in Biomedicine Bachelor in Religious Studies Preparatory Year for Master in Philosophy Preparatory Year for Master in Ethics
Faculty or entity in charge:	EFIL

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