

## Goals and Objectives for PHI 254

### General Goals

1. To acquire an appreciation of and understanding of the origin of western philosophy.
2. To acquire an understanding of the great Classical systems of Plato and Aristotle.
3. To acquire and appreciation of and understanding of the post-Aristotelean philosophers and to understand the relevance of those systems in the development of western philosophy
4. To acquire an appreciation of and understanding of the early Christian-Roman synthesis of Greek thought.
5. To gain an appreciation of the complexity and development of Scholasticism

### Specific Goals

1. The main point for students to understand about the pre-Socratics is how they invented secular inquiry into nature.
2. Next comes Plato with the Socratic introduction of philosophical normative inquiry .
  - a. Plato:
    - (1) Socratic dialectic and its relation to the sophists,
    - (2) the unifying power of the theory of forms to constitute the first great western philosophical system encompassing metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, politics, and aesthetics.
3. Aristotle:
  - (1) the beginnings of logic,
  - (2) the hylomorphic constitution of objects,
  - (3) the theory of causation,
  - (4) the analysis of soul and perception,
  - (5) the concepts of eudaimonia, practical reason, virtue, the voluntary,
  - (6) the polis and citizenship.
4. Hellenistic Period:
  - a. the Epicureans, students should encounter a hedonistic conception of happiness
  - b. the Stoics: a deontic conception of moral obligation .
5. Themes of lasting philosophical interest from the medieval philosophers.
  - a. Augustine on time, freedom and determinism, and the nature of god.
  - b. Anselm's ontological argument.
  - c. Aquinas' neo-Aristotelian metaphysics and epistemology, proofs of god's existence, and natural law ethics and politics.

### General Objectives

1. To be able to articulate the general monist perspectives of the pre-Socratic ontologies
2. To be able to understand the enduring problem of Parmenidean monism
3. To be able to articulate how the ancient pluralists and ancient atomists respond to Parmenidean Monism.

4. To understand how the theory of Forms addresses and solves the problem of Parmenidean monism
5. To understand the Aristotelean reformulation of Platonic ontology and comprehend how this applies to one of the specific sciences.
6. To understand the ancient materialist rejection of Platonic-Aristotelean transcendentalism in ontology and ethics.
7. To understand the medieval synthesis of neo-Platonic rationalism and Christian practical reasoning.
8. To understand medieval Natural Law explanations of ontology and practical science.

### Specific Objectives

1. To comprehend at least two of the pre-Socratic ontologies.
2. To appreciate Parmenides' criticism of these pre-Socratic positions.
3. To comprehend how the ancient pluralists, ancient atomists, ancient nominalists, and the Classical systems attempt to respond to Parmenidean criticisms.
  - A. To grapple with the theory of forms.
  - B. To comprehend Platonic dialectic as a precursor of formal logic
  - C. To understand how the Platonic position presents the first systematic Philosophical theory in the West.
    - D. To understand Aristotle's 4 cause explanation of science and be able to apply this in at least one of the sciences.
      1. Comprehend the 4 cause account in the ethics and politics.
  - E. To grapple with the ancient materialist rejections of ancient rationalism.
  - F. To understand the Augustinian synthesis of Classical speculative thought.
  - G. To understand the strength and problems of Anselm's ontological argument.
  - H. To understand Aquinas' 4 fold account of Natural Law and how this grounds medieval science.