

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR PHIL 6210/MEDVL 6210
SEMINAR IN MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
Fall 2014

All required readings and many of the optional readings will be made available on the course website. 'DM' is short for *Disputationes metaphysicae* (*Metaphysical Disputations*), the work from which we will be drawing our Suárez readings.

Week 1 – August 26 – INTRODUCTORY – NO READINGS

Week 2 – September 2

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Aquinas, *On the Principles of Nature*
- Michael Frede, 'The Original Notion of Cause', in *Essays in Ancient Philosophy* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1987), 125–50

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Michael Rota, 'Causation', in *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas*, ed. by Brian Davies and Eleonore Stump (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 104–14

Week 3 – September 9

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 12.2–3 (what is a cause? how many kinds of causes are there?)
- Suárez, *DM* 27.1.9–11 (whether 'cause' is univocal or analogical)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Fink, Jakob, 'Suárez on Aristotelian Causality', forthcoming
- Suárez, *DM* 12.1 (a long discussion of the relationship between 'cause' and 'principle'; with the main—rather unsurprising—conclusion being that 'principle' extends more widely than 'cause')

Week 4 – September 16

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 17.1–2 (what an efficient cause is and what the types of efficient causes are)
- Suárez, *DM* 18.1 (whether secondary beings really cause anything)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Alfred J. Freddoso, 'Suarez on Metaphysical Inquiry, Efficient Causality, and Divine Action', especially sections 2–4 (this is the introduction to his translation of *DM* 20–22)

Week 5 – September 23

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 19.1–2 (whether any created efficient causes act necessarily and whether any created causes act freely)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Sven K. Knebel, 'The Renaissance of Statistical Modalities in Early Modern Scholasticism', in *The Medieval Heritage in Early Modern Metaphysics and Modal Theory, 1400–1700*, ed. by Russell L. Friedman and Lauge O. Nielsen (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2003), 231–51

Week 6 – September 30

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 19.4–6 (on acting freely)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Sydney Penner, ‘Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will’

Week 7 – October 7

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 22.1, 3, and 4 (divine concurrence)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Alfred J. Freddoso, ‘God’s General Concurrence with Secondary Causes: Why Conservation is Not Enough’, *Philosophical Perspectives* 5 (1991): 553-85
- Ibid., ‘God’s General Concurrence with Secondary Causes: Pitfalls and Prospects’, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 68.2 (1994): 131–56

Week 8 – October 14 – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS**Week 9 – October 21**

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 23.1, 4, 5, 7–10 (whether there are final causes, what final causality is, where it’s found, etc.)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 23.2
- Stephan Schmid, ‘Suárez and the Problem of Final Causation’, forthcoming

ASSIGNMENTS:

- first shorter paper due

Week 10 – October 28

REQUIRED READINGS:

- John Carriero, ‘Spinoza on Final Causality’, *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 2 (2005): 105–47 (for present purposes you can focus on pp. 105–20)
- Paul Hoffman, ‘Does Efficient Causation Presuppose Final Causation: Aquinas vs. Early Modern Mechanism’, in *Metaphysics and the Good: Themes from the Philosophy of Robert M. Adams*, ed. by Samuel Newlands and Larry M. Jorgensen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 295–312
- Tad M. Schmaltz, *Descartes on Causation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 24–36

Week 11 – November 4

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 15.1 (whether there are substantial forms)
- Helen Hattab, ‘Suárez’s Last Stand for Substantial Form’, in *The Philosophy of Francisco Suárez*, ed.

by Benjamin Hill and Henrik Lagerlund (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 101–20

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Helen Hattab, ‘Suárez and Descartes: *A Priori* Arguments Against Substantial Forms and the Decline of the Formal Cause’, *Studia Neoscholastica* 8.2 (2011): 143–62
- Kara Richardson, ‘Formal Causality: Giving Being by Constituting and Completing’, forthcoming

Week 12 – November 11

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 15.5–7 (the nature of formal causality)

OPTIONAL READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 15.10 (whether a substance has one substantial form or more)

Week 13 – November 18

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Suárez, *DM* 13.1–2, 5 (whether there is a material cause, whether it is one or multiple, and whether it is pure potentiality)

Week 14 – November 25 – readings to be determined

Week 15 – December 2 – readings to be determined

December 9

ASSIGNMENTS:

- first draft of longer paper due

December 15

ASSIGNMENTS:

- second shorter paper due

December 18

ASSIGNMENTS:

- final draft of longer paper due