



THE UNIVERSITY AND THE MEDIEVAL MIND

Dr. Gordon Wilson - 214 Lecture in Lipinsky Auditorium

Monday, September 11 at 11:25 am



I. The University

A. What makes a university a university

B. What was taught

C. How teaching was done

D. How to get a textbook

II. The Rise of the Mendicant Orders

III. Disputes over Authority and The Reception of Aristotle in the Medieval Universities

ORGANIZATION OF TEACHING AT MEDIEVAL UNIVERSITY

I. BASIC FACULTY – FACULTY OF ARTS

- a. The curriculum in the Faculty of Arts (around 1250 and thereafter) consisted of
 1. grammar
 2. logic (and rhetoric)
 3. whole field of Aristotelian philosophy (plus math and astronomy)
- b. Students studying in the Faculty of Arts were:
 1. between 15 and 21 years old
 2. followed a course of study for one and a half to two and a half years
 3. had difficulty financing an education:
 - a. in 14th and 15th centuries, only 30 -50% of students received the lowest degree, a bachelor of arts degree
 - b. in 14th and 15th centuries, less than 15% of students received the final degree of master of arts.

II. HIGHER FACULTIES (LAW, MEDICINE, AND THEOLOGY)

- a. Initially all higher faculties presupposed a basic education in arts
- b. The students of the Higher Faculties.
 1. The students were more mature men
 2. The students had means of financing their education
 3. The number of students in the Higher Faculties were fewer than those studying arts
 - a. law (increased from 10% to 20% of total head count). Note: law studies were for the ambitious who wanted an ecclesiastical or civil career.
 - b. theology (5% of total head count). Note: theology was almost a pure abstract science – not required and not even an aid to a further career.
 - c. medicine (less than 5% of total head count, except at universities specializing in medicine, e.g. Montpellier, Padua).

III. SPREAD OF UNIVERSITIES

- a. In the mid-13th century the main universities were centered in Paris, Oxford, Bologna, Toulouse, Salamanca, Naples, Cologne, and Cambridge
- b. By the 14th century universities spread to central and eastern Europe (Prague established a university in 1348, which was the first east of Rhine)
- c. Before the end of the 15th century, more than 70 universities of varying size and importance existed.