

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**Philosophy 331 Lec 01**  
**Philosophy of Religion**

Fall 2009

Lectures: TR 12.30-1.45 in SS 541

Course Outline

Instructor: Noa Latham  
Office: SS 1250  
Phone: 220-5528  
Email: [latham@ucalgary.ca](mailto:latham@ucalgary.ca)  
Office hours: Tue 2-3, Thu. 11-12, and by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course examines philosophical issues associated with a conception of God common to the three major monotheistic religions. It begins with traditional and recent arguments for the existence of God. It then turns to a discussion of the attributes of God, and the relation between religion and morality. Next we discuss the problem of evil. And in the final part of the course we discuss the relation between theism and rationality.

**Required Readings** (available at University Bookstore)

*Philosophy of Religion* 4<sup>th</sup> edition ed. Louis Pojman  
*The Miracle of Theism* J.L. Mackie  
A package of supplementary readings

**Course Requirements**

A take-home midterm due Oct 13 worth 10% of the final grade. Two papers 1500-2100 words (5-7 pages) due Oct 26 and Dec 8, each worth 30% of the final grade, and a Registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 25% of the final grade. Participation counts for 5% of your final grade. Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

The midterm and papers are due 4pm in the course dropbox outside my office. Late assignments will be marked down by one grade step for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me before the due date.

**Course Website**

A course website has been set up on U of C's Blackboard server. You should be automatically signed up if you're registered in the class. Log in with your UCS user ID and password. You can find the website at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>. I shall be using Blackboard to post assignments, to confirm what we are reading for the next lecture, and to provide some questions on those readings.

## **Tentative Schedule**

Sep 8	Introduction
Sep 10, 15	The Cosmological Argument: Aquinas, Edwards, Mackie 5abc
Sep 17	The Teleological Argument: Paley, Hume, Mackie 8ab
Sep 22, 24	Swinburne, Mackie 5d & 8c, Leslie (reader),
Sep 29, Oct 1, 6	Dawkins (reader), Collins
Oct 8, 13	The Ontological Argument: Mackie 3, Anselm, Gaunilo
Oct 15	Miracles: Hume, Mackie 1
Oct 20, 22	Religious Experience: James, Mackie 10a, Broad
Oct 27	Goodness: Plato (X.1), Law (reader)
Oct 29, Nov 3	Eternity: Davis, McCann, Latham I and II (reader)
Nov 5, 10	Omniscience: Augustine, Pike, Plantinga, Latham III (reader)
Nov 17	Omnipotence: Aquinas, Mavrodes, Mackie 9c
Nov 19, 24	Problem of Evil: Hume, Hick, Mackie 9
Nov 26	Pragmatic Justification of Religious Belief: Pascal, Mackie 11a
Dec 1, 3, 8	Clifford, James, Pojman, Mackie 11b

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### **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.