

University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy
PHIL 331 LEC 60 - Philosophy of Religion
Summer 2009

Instructor: Travis Dumsday
Office: Social Sciences 1231
Office Hours: Monday 3:00 - 4:30 (or by appointment)
Phone: 220-8622
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Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 4:45 in ST 125

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to some of the central themes and problems in the philosophy of religion. Topics will include: the existence and nature of God, the possibility of miracles, the nature and evidential significance of mystical and other religious experiences, the immortality of the soul, and the relationship between faith and reason. Readings will incorporate a variety of perspectives from historical and contemporary sources. Emphasis will be placed on the careful interpretation and rigorous analysis of arguments.

Textbooks:

- Peterson et al. (Eds.) *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings. 3rd Edition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) [REQUIRED]
- Maxwell and Tschudin (Eds.) *Seeing the Invisible: Modern Religious and Other Transcendent Experiences* (London: Penguin, 1990) [RECOMMENDED]

Evaluation:

Grading will be based on three written assignments and an in-class test. There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final examination. The assignments must be submitted in class (with the exception of the last). Late assignments will not be accepted without medical (or other appropriate) documentation.

Due dates:

Essay 1: 2-3 pages, worth 15% Tuesday July 21
Test: Worth 25% Thursday July 30
Essay 2: 5 pages, worth 30% Thursday August 6
Essay 3: 5 pages, worth 30% Monday August 17 (to be handed in to instructor during office hours)

Grading:

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	50-53 D-	60-63 C-	70-73 B-	84-90	A-
	54-56 D	64-66 C	74-76 B	91-94	A
	57-59 D+	67-69 C+	77-83 B+	95-100	A+

Course Calendar

Thursday July 2

Intro class

Tuesday July 7

Cosmological Argument

Readings:

- (1) Kreeft and Tacelli (Posted on Blackboard)
- (2) Craig (RECOMMENDED)
- (3) Reichenbach
- (4) Aquinas (on Blackboard)

Thursday July 9

Cosmological Argument (Cont.)

- (1) Aquinas (on Blackboard)
- (2) Mackie

Teleological Argument

- (3) Paley
- (4) Betty and Cordell
- (5) Dawkins (RECOMMENDED on Blackboard)

Tuesday July 14

Ontological Argument

- (3) Anselm
- (4) Gaunilo
- (5) Plantinga

Thursday July 16

Problem of Evil

- (1) Mackie
- (2) Plantinga

Tuesday July 21 ** 1st Assignment Due (Worth 15%)

Problem of Evil (Cont.)

- (1) Hick
- (2) Rowe
- (3) Adams

Thursday July 23 READING DAY: NO CLASS

Tuesday July 28

Non-Montheistic Conceptions of the Divine

- (1) Sankara (on Blackboard)
- (2) Yandell (on Blackboard)
- (3) Masih (on Blackboard)
- (4) Mavrodes (on Blackboard)

Thursday July 30 ** Test (Worth 25%)

Religious Experience

- (1) James

Tuesday August 4

Religious Experience (Cont.)

- (1) Verena and Tschudin (Intro and Selections)
- (2) Martin
- (3) Murphey

Thursday August 6 **2nd Assignment Due (Worth 30%)

Life After Death

- (1) Kreeft and Tacelli (on Blackboard)
- (2) Swinburne
- (3) Badham
- (4) Aurobindo (RECOMMENDED)

Tuesday August 11

Miracles

- (1) Dumsday (on Blackboard)
- (2) Hume
- (3) Swinburne
- (4) Mackie (RECOMMENDED)

Thursday August 13

Faith and Reason

- (1) Aquinas
- (2) Pascal
- (3) Clifford
- (4) James

*** 3rd Assignment Due Monday August 17 by 4:30 (Worth 30%)

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 Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.