

Philosophy 115
Introduction to Philosophy of Religion
Fall 2018
Tribble Hall
A304
TTH 12:30-1:45

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Texts

- Howard-Snyder, D. (ed). (1996). *The Evidential Argument from Evil*. Bloomington, IA: Indiana University Press.
- Marion, J.-L. (2012). *God without Being: Hors-Texte* (2nd edition). Translated Thomas A. Carlson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Nagasawa, Y. (2017). *Maximal God: A New Defense of Anselmian Theism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wierenga, E. (2017). *Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford: Wiley.

Course Objectives

This course will introduce you to some of the main questions and debates in the philosophy of religion. In approaching the things themselves, the aim is to appreciate the importance of philosophical reflection on these issues to our ordinary lives. Themes we'll encounter include faith and reason, arguments for and against the existence of God, miracles, free will and foreknowledge, and the nature of God. A related aim in wrestling with these topics is to learn how to evaluate philosophical ideas critically, while articulating and defending your own.

Course Requirements

There will be three in-class exams. The format is short essay. Each exam will be divided into two parts, each part offering multiple questions from which to choose. You'll choose one to answer for a total of two essays. The essays will test your ability to recall and reconstruct the central arguments at stake in the texts, and to have you assess them for yourself. The questions will call on the readings themselves as well as our class discussion, so attendance is important.

If discussion is slumping because everyone's not keeping up with the reading, I occasionally may resort to quizzes. Those quizzes would be factored into the final grade.

Class attendance and participation are important. That's the time for us to dig into the material. If we do it right, it will be rewarding! If you know you are going to be absent from a given class for a university excused reason (sports competition, death in the family, interview, illness, etc.) let me know by e-mail so I can make sure you're not going to fall

behind. Excessive unexcused absences (more than three) may result in a decrease in the final grade. Good attendance with little participation will leave the final grade unchanged. Good attendance with thoughtful participation will only help your final grade.

Grading

First Exam	30%
Second Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance and Participation:	10%

The last exam is slated for Monday, December 10 at 9 am in our usual classroom.

Office Hours

My office is at Tribble Hall room B306. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 2 pm to 3pm and Friday from 12 pm to 1 pm, or by appointment. Please-mail me or catch me in person to arrange an appointment for a time that works for you. I am very happy to help however I can, so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Please Note: If you have a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (758-5929, <http://lac.wfu.edu/>) within the first two weeks of the semester and let me know as well.

Date	Topic	Reading
T, August 28	First Day	<i>No reading</i>
Th, August 30	Introduction	Wierenga (pp. 1-9) Nagasawa (pp. 1-4)
T, September 4	Cosmological argument	Wierenga (pp. 10-21)
Th, September 6	Ontological argument	Wierenga (pp. 22-34)
T, September 11	The Problem of Evil	Wierenga (pp. 51-78)
Th, September 13	Omnipotence and omniscience, foreknowledge and free will	Wierenga (pp. 79-106)
T, September 18	Divine freedom and moral perfection	Wierenga (pp. 107-118)
Th, September 20	Miracles	Wierenga (pp. 119-130)
T, September 25	Evidentialism and foundationalism	Wierenga (pp. 131-158)
Th, September 27	First Exam	
T, October 2	Perfect being theism	Nagasawa (pp. 7-38)
Th, October 4	Perfect being theism	Nagasawa (pp. 40-76)
T, October 9	Arguments against maximal God	Nagasawa (pp. 79-102)
Th, October 11	Fall Break	
T, October 16	Arguments against maximal God	Nagasawa (pp. 103-120)
Th, October 18	Defense of ontological argument	Nagasawa (pp. 123-150)
T, October 23	Defense of ontological argument	Nagasawa (pp. 152-178)
Th, October 25	Maximal God and modal argument	Nagasawa (pp. 180-207)
T, October 30	Review	<i>No reading</i>
Th, November 1	Second Exam	
T, November 6	The problem of evil	Howard-Snyder (pp.xi-xx) Rowe (pp. 1-11) Swinburne (pp. 30-48)
Th, November 8	The problem of evil	Plantinga (pp. 69-96)
T, November 13	The problem of evil	Alston (pp. 97-125) Draper (pp. 175-192)
Th, November 15	The problem of evil	Gale (pp. 206-218) Rowe (pp. 262-285)
T, November 20	The problem of evil	Howard-Snyder (pp. 286-310) Alston (pp. 311-332)
Th, November 22	Thanksgiving Break	
T, November 27	Onto-theology	Marion <i>TBD</i>
Th, November 29	Onto-theology	Marion <i>TBD</i>
T, December 4	Onto-theology	Marion <i>TBD</i>
Th, December 6	Last Class	<i>No reading</i>

This reading schedule is subject to change as we progress through the term.