

***Philosophy 3600 Philosophy of Religion Fall 2014**

Dr. Sherlock
Office Main 202E
Phone 7x1244 Email Richard.sherlock@usu.edu
Office Hours MWF 10:30—11:30 1—3, 4—5

Class FL 301 MWF 9:30

TEXT : Reading Packet in the bookstore

Requirements You will write 6 two page papers on topics that are attached, with due dates. There will be a 5 question take home midterm and a 5 question take home final. Thus there will be about 22 pages of writing. Each question on the exams will require about a page of writing. Each paper will be worth 100 points. The exams will be worth 150 points. Thus there will be 900 points possible. I will offer two extra writing assignments. If you do 7 I will drop your lowest score. If you do 8 I will drop your lowest 2 scores. **This does not count for exams.**

Classes and Topics

August 25 Introduction to the Class and an introductory discussion

August 27 Introduction/ substance/accident, act/potency, 4 causes
Aristotle p. 5

Arguments for the Existence of God

August 29 Cosmological Argument
Aquinas p. 9 Aristotle p. 13

September 3 Cosmological Argument
Hume p. 16 Kant. P. 19

September 5 Ontological Argument
Whole section: Anselm, Descartes, Aquinas, Kant

September 8 Ontological Argument

September 12 Teleological/Design Argument
Bonaventure p. 52, Paley, p. 57

September 15 Teleological/Design Argument
Hume p. 63 Darwin p. 70

Divine Attributes

September 17 Attributes of God: Introduction
Maimonides p. 76 Aquinas p. 83

September 19 Attributes of God : Simplicity, Immateriality, Immutability
Aquinas p. 90, p. 94, p. 99 Augustine p. 97

September 24—26 Out of Town

September 29 Attributes of God :Eternity, Omniscience
Aquinas p. 102, p. 108 Boethius, p. 110, William of Ockham, p. 119 Augustine p. 130

October 1 Attributes of God: Omniscience continued, and Oneness
Aquinas p. 134

October 3 Attributes of God : Omnipotence and Goodness
Aquinas p. 136, Samuel Clarke p. 139, Aquinas p. 142

Two Concepts of God

October 6

October 8

Religious Experience

October 10 Religious Experience
Paul, p. 226, Augustine, p. 228, Theresa, p. 232

October 13 Religious Experience
Pascal p. 241, Kierkegaard, p. 242, James p. 251

October 15 Religious Experience

October 17 FALL BREAK

The Problem of Evil

October 20 God and Evil
Job p. 145, Augustine, p. 158, Leibniz p. 161

October 22 God and Evil
Voltaire p. 166, Schleiermacher p. 169

October 24 God and Evil
Hume p. 180 Dostoevsky, p. 187

October 27 God and Evil

Miracles

October 29 Miracles
Bible p. 195, Aquinas, p. 200, Locke, p. 205

October 31 Miracles
Spinoza p. 210, Hume p. 215

November 3 Miracles

Faith and Reason

November 5 Faith and Reason
Aquinas p. 269 Benedict p. 277, Locke p. 285

November 7 Faith and Reason
Pascal p. 290, Calvin p. 303

November 10 Faith and Reason
Hobbes p. 293, Marx p. 299, Freud p. 310

November 12 Faith and Reason

Religion and Ethics

November 14 Religion and Ethics
Paul 310, Aquinas, p. 311, Calvin p. 323

November 17 Religion and Ethics
Locke p. 335, Kant p. 330

November 19 Religion and Ethics

November 21 Religion and Ethics

December 1 Prayer

December 3 Pass out and go over final

December 5 review

IN EACH PAPER YOU MUST HAVE ONE QUOTE FROM THE READING

1. Describe carefully one of Aquinas's 3 versions of the cosmological argument and show what sort of God it justifies

DUE SEPTEMBER 8

2. Describe the complexity design argument and show Darwin's critique

DUE SEPTEMBER 19

3. Describe Boethius' way of understanding divine omniscience and show what kind of God this must be

DUE OCTOBER 8

4. Using Hume argue whether or not the fact of evil provides good grounds for not believing in God

DUE OCTOBER 29

- 5 I will hand out an example of a recent supposed miracle. Describe it and use either Hume or Spinoza to criticize it

DUE NOVEMBER 7

- 6 Which concept of God do you believe in and why? Column A or B. If you are non-believer which concept would you believe in if you did?

DUE NOVEMBER 21

EXTRA CREDIT

IF YOU DO 7 I WILL DROP YOUR LOWEST SCORE. IF YOU DO 8 I WILL DROP YOUR LOWEST 2 SCORES. DOES NOT INCLUDE EXAMS THESE EXTRA CREDIT ESSAYS WILL BE DUE LAST DAY OF CLASS

7. What is the difference between natural and moral evil and which one is harder for religious people to explain?

8. Explain Maimonides purely negative theology

KEY TO NOTES ON PAPERS

ON THE SIDE OF A LINE WHERE THE ERROR IS I WILL NOTE THE ERROR AS FOLLOWS

S= SPELLING ERROR MORE THAN ONE ERROR IN A LINE WILL GET AS MANY S AS NEEDED

G= GRAMMAR ERROR, SAME RULE AS MANY G'S AS NEEDED

O= ORGANIZATION THIS MAY TAKE IN SEVERAL LINES, I WILL NOTE

C= CLAIRITY THIS TOO MAY TAKE IN MORE THAN ONE LINE

CO= CONCLUSION

POINTS TAKEN OFF

SPELLING --2 FOR EACH ERROR

GRAMMAR --2 FOR EACH ERROR

CLAIRITY --5 FOR EACH ERROR

ORGANIZATION --5 FOR EACH ERROR

CONCLUSION --7 FOR NO CONCLUSION

GRADE BREAKDOWN

900—860 A

859—800 A-

799—760 B+

759—720 B

719—680 B-

679—640 C+

639—600 C

599—560 C-