

## **\*Philosophy 3600 Philosophy of Religion Fall 2017**

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Office Hours Tues 1—3 , Thursday 11—3

Class Tues/Thursday 3—415

Place Bus 209

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 4 question take home midterm and a 5 question take home final. Thus there will be about 20 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.**

**There will also be 5 unannounced quizzes. If you are in class you cannot fail the quiz . If you pass 4 of the 5 you will get 20 extra credit points. If not you get zero.**

### *Classes and Topics*

August 29 Introduction to the Class and an introductory discussion

August 31 Introduction/ substance/accident, act/potency, 4 causes  
Aristotle p. 5

### **Arguments for the Existence of God**

September 5 Cosmological Argument  
Aquinas p. 9 Aristotle p. 13

September 7 Cosmological Argument  
Hume p. 16 Kant. P. 19

September 12 Ontological Argument  
Whole section: Anselm, Descartes, Aquinas, Kant

September 14 Ontological Argument

September 19 Teleological/Design Argument  
Bonaventure p. 52, Paley, p. 57

SEPTEMBER 21 NO CLASS

September 26 Teleological/Design Argument  
Hume p. 63 Darwin p. 70

## **Divine Attributes**

September 28 Attributes of God: Introduction  
Maimonides p. 76 Aquinas p. 83

October 3 Attributes of God : Simplicity, Immateriality, Immutability  
Aquinas p. 90, p. 94, p. 99 Augustine p. 97

October 5 Attributes of God :Eternity, Omniscience  
Aquinas p. 102, p. 108 Boethius, p. 110, William of Ockham, p. 119 Augustine p. 130

October 10 Attributes of God: Omniscience continued, and Oneness  
Aquinas p. 134

October 12 Attributes of God : Omnipotence and Goodness  
Aquinas p. 136, Samuel Clarke p. 139, Aquinas p. 142

## **Two Concepts of God**

October 17

October 19 Fall Break

## **Religious Experience**

October 24 Religious Experience  
Paul, p. 226, Augustine, p. 228, Theresa, p. 232

MID TERM DUE

October 26 Religious Experience  
Pascal p. 241, Kierkegaard, p. 242, James p.251

## **The Problem of Evil**

October 31 God and Evil

Job p. 145, Augustine, p. 158, Leibniz p. 161

November 2 God and Evil

Voltaire p. 166, Schleiermacher p. 169 Iranaeus

November 7 God and Evil

Hume p. 180 Dostoevsky, p. 187

## **Miracles**

November 9 Miracles

Bible p. 195, Aquinas, p. 200, Locke, p. 205

November 14 Miracles

Spinoza p. 210, Hume p. 215

## **Faith and Reason**

November 16 Faith and Reason

Aquinas p. 269 Benedict p. 277, Locke p. 285

November 21 Faith and Reason

Pascal p. 290, Calvin p. 303

November 28 Faith and Reason

Hobbes p. 293, Marx p. 299, Freud p. 310

## **Religion and Ethics**

November 30 Religion and Ethics

Paul 310, Aquinas , p. 311, Calvin p. 323

December 5 Religion and Ethics

Locke p. 335, Kant p. 330

December 7 Pass out and go over final



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 14

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

DUE SEPTEMBER 28

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

DUE OCTOBER 17

- 4 Which concept of God do you believe in? Column A or Column B and Why?  
If you do not believe in a monotheistic God which one would you believe in if you did?

DUE OCTOBER 31

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

DUE NOVEMBER 14

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

DUE NOVEMBER 28

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. Describe Aquinas 4 types of law

DUE WITH THE FINAL

MID TERM EXAM PHILOSOPHY 3600 FALL 2017

EACH ANSWER MUST BE 1 PAGE

**DUE OCTOBER 24**

1 DESCRIBE Kant's "moral argument" for belief in God

2 DESCRIBE MAIMONIDES' ARGUMENT FOR A PURELY NEGATIVE THEOLOGY

3 WHAT IS THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT AND WHAT IS AQUINAS' CRITIQUE ?

4 IF GOD IS A CREATOR WHY MUST HE BE IMMATERIAL AS WE UNDERSTAND MATTER?

FINAL EXAM PHILOSOPHY 3600 FALL 2014

1. AS WE DID IN CLASS EXPLAIN THE IDEA OF A SPECIAL “EAR FOR MUSIC” AND COMPARE IT TO RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE ARE THEY THE SAME OF DIFFERENT
2. IN BENEDICT XVI’S LECTURE THE BYZANTINE EMPORER DISAGREES WITH THE MUSLIM ABOUT GOD. WHY?
3. EXPLAIN THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL IN THE BOOK OF JOB. IS IT SUFFICIENT?
4. EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOBBS’ UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION AND MARX’S.
5. EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF DIVINE SIMPLICITY





## Some helps in writing a philosophy paper

1. You don't need any library research. I don't want to know what others think I want to know what you think about these topics, e.g. what solution do you think is best for reconciling a belief in God with the fact of evil and suffering in the world as we experience it.
- 2 Read the question carefully. Don't tell me everything about a topic, e.g. the cosmological argument. Write about just what I have asked for.
- 3 Start by stating the foundation carefully, e.g. Paley's design argument.
4. Then state problem that I have raised about this belief. e.g. what does the cosmological argument justify about the existence of God.
5. If the question asked for a criticism or your own view give the criticism or your own conclusion clearly and precisely. Make sure your criticism or conclusion is specifically tied to the problem as you have stated it. Give reasons for your conclusion. Just saying "I don't agree" without giving reasons is not enough

Take Home Final Philosophy 3600 Fall 2016

- 1, Describe Marx and Freud's claims about religion. Where do they differ?
- 2.. What is the answer to the problem of evil in the Book of Job? Do you agree?
- 3 What is Kant's way of relating religion and morality?
- 4 What is the concept of divine simplicity?
5. What is the "interventionist" concept of miracles? What is Spinoza's critique?

## Grading Grid

Spelling Error 2 points off  
Grammar Error 2 points off  
Clarity error 5 points off  
Organization Error 5 points off

900 Points Possible

900—860 A

859—810 A—

809—780 B+

779—740 B

739—700 B—

699—650 C+

649—610 C

609—580 C—