

***Philosophy 3600 Philosophy of Religion Fall 2018**

Dr. Sherlock
Office Main 202E
Phone 7x1244 Email Richard.sherlock@usu.edu
Office Hours Tues 1—3 , Thursday 11—3

Class Tues/Thursday 3—415

Place Eccles Bus 209

TEXT : Reading Packet in the bookstore

By the second week of the term a canvas page will be set up

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.**

Classes and Topics

August 28 Introduction to the Class and an introductory discussion

August 30 Introduction/ substance/accident, act/potency, 4 causes
Aristotle p. 5

Arguments for the Existence of God

September 4 Cosmological Argument
Aquinas p. 9 Aristotle p. 13

September 6 Cosmological Argument
Hume p. 16 Kant. P. 19

September 11 Ontological Argument
Whole section: Anselm, Descartes, Aquinas, Kant

September 13 Ontological Argument

FIRST PAPER DUE

September 18 Teleological/Design Argument
Bonaventure p. 52, Paley, p. 57

SEPTEMBER 20 NO CLASS

September 25 Teleological/Design Argument
Hume p. 63 Darwin p. 70

Divine Attributes

September 27 Attributes of God: Introduction
Maimonides p. 76 Aquinas p. 83

October 2 Attributes of God : Simplicity, Immateriality, Immutability
Aquinas p. 90, p. 94, p. 99 Augustine p. 97

SECOND PAPER DUE

October 4 Attributes of God :Eternity, Omniscience
Aquinas p. 102, p. 108 Boethius, p. 110, William of Ockham, p. 119 Augustine p. 130

October 9 Attributes of God: Omniscience continued, and Oneness
Aquinas p. 134 Attributes of God : Omnipotence and Goodness
Aquinas p. 136, Samuel Clarke p. 139, Aquinas p. 142

MID TERM PASSED OUT

Two Concepts of God

October 11

October 16

THIRD PAPER DUE

Religious Experience

October 18 Religious Experience
Paul, p. 226, Augustine, p. 228, Theresa, p. 232

MID TERM DUE

October 23 Religious Experience
Pascal p. 241, Kierkegaard, p. 242, James p.251

The Problem of Evil

October 25 God and Evil

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

October 30 God and Evil

Voltaire p. 166, Schleiermacher p. 169

FOURTH PAPER DUE

November 2 God and Evil

Hume p. 180 Dostoevsky, p. 187

Miracles

November 6 Miracles

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

November 8 Miracles

Spinoza p. 210, Hume p. 215

Faith and Reason

November 13 Faith and Reason

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

November 15 Faith and Reason

Pascal p. 290, Calvin p. 303

FIFTH PAPER DUE

November 20 Faith and Reason

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

Religion and Ethics

November 27 Religion and Ethics

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

November 29 Religion and Ethics

Locke p. 335, Kant p. 330

SIXTH PAPER DUE

December 4 Pass out and go over final

IN EACH PAPER WHERE IT IS CALLED FOR 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 13

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

DUE OCTOBER 2

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

DUE OCTOBER 18

- 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? NO QUOTE NECESSARY

DUE OCTOBER 30

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

DUE NOVEMBER 15

- 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 29

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. What is “Pascal’s wager” and offer a criticism

DUE WITH THE FINAL

MID TERM EXAM PHILOSOPHY 3600 FALL 2018

EACH ANSWER MUST BE ABOUT 1 PAGE

DUE OCTOBER 24

1 WHAT IS THE CONCEPT OF DIVINE SIMPLICITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

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 AQUINAS’ CONCEPT OF NATURAL LAW AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM DIVINE LAW

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

No quote if called for—5 points off

No argument if called for—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—