*Philosophy 3600  Philosophy of Religion  Fall 2018*

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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
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?
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 OR DIFFERENT?

2. IN BENEDICT XVI’S LECTURE THE BYZANTINE EMPEROR 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 HOBBES’ 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
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—