

Reason and Religion
M. McLeod-Harrison
Hoover 237
Spring 2012

Philosophy 330
Office Hours MWF 9:30-10:15 and TT, TBA
Phone 2654

This course considers the philosophy of religion from a Western point of view. It covers the existence and nature of God, challenges to God's existence, whether it is rational to believe in God, the role of religious experience and the nature of religious language, among many other things. The main goal of the course is that, by the end of the term, the successful student will be able to think and write more clearly and cogently about a number of issues in the philosophy of religion. The student will also understand some of the central arguments on a variety of issues dealing with the philosophy of religion.

The texts are

McLeod-Harrison, *Repairing Eden*: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005
Pojman and Rea, *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*, 6th edition, Wadsworth, 2012

There will be a midterm and a final exam in this course, each worth 20% of your grade. The midterm is Thurs. March 1, the final (of equal length) is during exam week, Thurs, April 26, 8:00 a.m.

You will turn in a paper that is a presentation of, and critical response to, a contemporary essay in the philosophy of religion. You are to find an article in a professional philosophical journal, summarize its main point and argument in the first ½ of your paper and then respond critically to the argument in the second ½. The paper you summarize should not be a response to another writer but rather something substantive in its own right. The paper is to be no more than 7 pp. (1750 words) in length. I expect it to be well written and in proper format. Please do not wait until the last week before it is due to accomplish the writing. Philosophy writing and thinking take time and time is what you have, if you begin now. Use the periodical resource, *The Philosopher's Index* to find the article. *The instructor must approve the paper you select.* With this in mind, you should uncover at least three possible papers, copy them, and get them to me early enough for me to consider them as possible papers. You must have your paper approved by March 3. The paper is due, in class, by Friday. April 4. The paper is worth 35% of your grade. Papers are expected to be written at a collegiate level, that is, in an organized, thoughtful manner, without major grammatical errors, spelling errors or typos.

In addition, there will be quizzes given virtually every day. These will be short one paragraph answers over the reading. 25% of your grade. I do not allow make-ups for these quizzes but I will drop the 3 lowest grades at the end of the term.

Your papers should have your name and a word count at the top of the first page. Please, no fancy covers.

Paper Approval Thursday, Feb. 23
Paper Due Thursday April 5
Midterm On or around March 6
Final Thurs. Thursday April 26, 8:00 a.m.

Plagiarism and cheating of other forms will be strongly treated resulting in, minimally, an F for the assignment, and a possible F for the course. Plagiarism is the use of other people's words or ideas without proper acknowledgement. If you have questions about whether something constitutes plagiarism, please ask.

I do not permit students to use computers in class except for taking notes. I do not permit emailing, web-surfing, text messaging, or other forms of electronic communication during class. If I discover anyone engaged in computer use other than note-taking, that person will be asked to leave the class room. In short, I take such communication to be rude and unprofessional behavior. Please don't engage in it.

Each student must complete all the assignments, and they must be completed on time. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due dates. Also, please do not make arrangements to leave the university before the term is over, so you are here to take the final exam during its scheduled time. I will provide extensions on papers only for legitimate excuses: serious illness, official university obligations or a funeral. I might be persuaded to give an extension if you are in your best friend's wedding and you need to fly home for it.

Three dropped quizzes will cover these excuses in most cases for the quiz assignments. Paper extensions are to be granted ahead of time if possible. Please just send me an email explaining the situation. However, it is best if you work ahead of time so you aren't caught without the work done on time. Late work will be graded down a letter grade 24 hours of tardiness. After 3 days, you will be assigned an F for that assignment. If you do not complete all the assignments for the class, your grade for the term will be an F.

January 10 - Introduction	January 12 - The Concept of God: Morris and Pinnock (11-35)
January 17 - The Concept of God: MaFague, Tillich and Buber (36-60)	January 19 - God and Time: Davis and McCann (64-86)
January 24 - Omnipotence: Mavrodes and Frankfurt (89-92) God's Foreknowledge: Pike and Plantinga (96-111)	January 26 - God's Freedom: Rowe and Wierenga (111-134)
January 31 - Ontological Argument: Anselm and Kant ((138-144)	February 2 - Cosmological Argument from Contingency: Clarke and Rowe (149-159)
February 7 - Kalaam Cosmological Argument: Craig/Moreland and Draper(60-178)	February 9 - Teleological Argument: Paley, Hume and Swinburne (181-201)
February 14 - The Problem of Evil: Dostoevsky, Mackie, Rowe (291-314)	February 16 - The Problem of Evil Response: Plantinga (329-348)
February 21 - The Problem of Evil Response: Hick, Adams (349-352, 383-391)	February 23 - Paper Approval - Miracles: Hume, Hudson (406-414 and 446-459)
February 28 - Immortality: Russell, Hick, Olen (468-487)	March 1 - Midterm
March 6 - Pragmatic Justification of Religious Belief : Pascal, Clifford and James (493-510)	March 8 - Religious Experience: James, Alston (224-246)
March 13 - Religious Experience: d'Aquili and Newberg, Jordon (247-265)	March 15 - Evidence and Faith: Hick and Flew (513-533)
March 20 - Evidence and Faith: Bergmann and Pojman (534-560)	March 22 - Science and Religion: Dawkins, Gould and John Paul II (564-579)
March 27 - <i>Spring Break</i>	March 29 - <i>Spring Break</i>
April 3 - Intelligent Design Dembski and Murray (584-611)	April 5 - Paper Due - Intelligent Design Plantinga and Bergmann (612-629)
April 10 - Religious Pluralism: Hick and Plantinga (632-653)	April 12 - Religious Diversity: McLeod-Harrison (3-44)
April 17 - Religious Diversity: McLeod-Harrison (45-85)	April 19 - Religious Diversity: McLeod-Harrison (86-129)
<i>April 23 – April 27 Finals Week</i>	Final - 8:00 a.m. Thurs. April 26