

Undergraduate Philosophy of Religion Course

course number here

John M. DePoe, course instructor
office room number here

office hours here
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<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Paper: 40%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exams: 50%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Participation: 10%													

Required Text

Linda Zagzebski, *The Philosophy of Religion: An Historical Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.

Recommended Text

Phillip Quinn and Charles Taliaferro, eds., *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1999.

Other texts listed in the reading schedule will be provided through the course website. These texts have been marked with an asterisk (*) on the tentative reading schedule.

Course Description

This course will focus on philosophical issues that are fundamental to the study of philosophy of religion in contemporary Anglo-American philosophy. Some of these topics include the appropriate role of evidence and science for religious belief, arguments for and against the existence of God, the proper analysis or coherence of divine attributes, and how to respond to the diversity of different religious beliefs rationally.

Exams

The course will have two exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will consist in extemporaneous in-class essays where students will be required to demonstrate their grasp on the course readings and lectures. Each exam is worth 25% of the student's overall grade.

Paper Requirement

Students will write a 12-15 page paper for the course that focuses on one of the readings or topics for this course. This paper will count for 40% of the student's overall grade. More specific instructions about the paper will be given in class. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor for advice and help in writing their papers.

Attendance & Participation

Given the difficult nature of many of the readings and topics covered in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. Students will receive 10% of their overall grade based on their attendance and participation in the course.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet three basic requirements: (1) they take all exams; (2) they must turn in the paper; and (3) they must attend three-fourths of classes.

Those who do not meet these conditions are subject to fail the course regardless of their overall average.

Tentative Reading Schedule

Week 1: Philosophers and Religion

Zagzebski, chapter 1

Week 2: Introduction to Natural Theology

Zagzebski, chapter 2

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, 1a, 2, 3*

Weeks 3-4: Cosmological Arguments

Craig, "The Kalam Cosmological Argument"*

Pruss, "Leibnizian Cosmological Arguments"*

Rowe, "Two Criticisms of the Cosmological Argument"*

Week 5: Teleological Arguments

Hume, excerpt from *Dialogues**

Swinburne, "The Argument from Design"*

Week 6: Ontological Arguments

Anselm, *Proslogion* 2-5*

Rowe, "The Ontological Argument"*

Week 7: Morality and God

Zagzebski, chapter 5

Week 8: Faith and Wagering

Zagzebski, chapter 3

Midterm Exam

Week 9: Attributes of God

Zagzebski, chapter 4

"Omniscience" "Omnipotence" on *SEP**

Weeks 10-11: Problem of Evil

Zagzebski, chapter 6

Plantinga, excerpt from *God, Freedom, Evil**

Rowe, "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism"*

Week 12: Miracles

Hume, "On Miracles"*

Swinburne, "Miracles"*

Week 13: Religious Pluralism

Zagzebski, chapter 9

Weeks 14-15: Faith and Reason

Zagzebski, chapter 10

Flew, "The Presumption of Atheism"*

Plantinga, "An Evolutionary Argument against Naturalism"*

Final Exam: Time & Place TBA