

Undergraduate Philosophy of Religion Course

course number here

John M. DePoe, course instructor
office room number 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

All required texts will be made available online or through a course packet.

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 of 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: Introduction

Week 2: Faith & Reason

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

John Locke, *Essay concerning Human*

Understanding, bk 4, ch. 18

Week 3: Faith & Reason

Antony Flew, "The Presumption of Atheism"

Alvin Plantinga, *Warranted Christian Belief*
(excerpt)

Week 4: Omnipotence & Omnipresence

Flint and Freddoso, "Maximal Power"

Edward Wierenga, "Omnipresence"

Week 5: Omniscience & Foreknowledge

Nelson Pike, "Divine Omniscience and
Voluntary Action"

Alfred Freddoso, "Introduction" to *On Divine
Foreknowledge* (excerpt)

Week 6: Ontological Argument

Anselm, *Proslogion* (excerpt)

Norman Malcolm, "Anselm's Ontological
Arguments"

Midterm Exam

Week 7: Cosmological Argument

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

Samuel Clarke, *A Demonstration of the Being and
Attributes of God*

Week 8: Cosmological Argument

William Rowe, "Two Criticisms of the
Cosmological Argument"

William Lane Craig, "The Kalam Cosmological
Argument"

Week 9: Cosmological Argument

Alexander Pruss, "Leibnizian Cosmological
Arguments"

Week 10: Design Argument

William Paley, *Natural Theology* (excerpt)

David Hume, *Dialogues concerning Natural
Religion* (parts 2, 5, 8)

Week 11: Design Argument

Richard Swinburne, "The Argument from
Design"

Week 12: Problem of Evil

David Hume, *Dialogues concerning Natural
Religion* (part 10)

J. L. Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"

Week 13: Problem of Evil

Alvin Plantinga, *God, Freedom & Evil* (excerpt)

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

Week 14: Problem of Evil

Robert Adams, "Must God Create the Best?"

Week 15: Miracles

David Hume, "On Miracles"

Richard Swinburne, "Miracles"

Final Exam: Time & Place TBA