

Dallas Baptist University
Department of Philosophy
Spring Term 2003
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SYLLABUS FOR RELIGION 3303
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
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*We must always be ready "to inquire, in a rational way,
into the things human reason can disclose concerning God."
—Thomas Aquinas, Summa Contra Gentiles, I. 9. n. 4.*

I. DBU Catalog Course Description :

Phil 3303 (3-3-0) A critical examination of the nature and validity of religious experience and the place of religion in human life. Spring.

II. Course Data

Professor: Dr. David (Davey) Naugle
Days and time: MWF, 9: 00-9: 50 am
Phone: Office (214) 333-5248; Home (972) 780-0626
Office Hours: 1: 30-5: 00 pm MWF afternoons 1: 30-5: 00 pm, and by appointment
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III. Course Objectives

There are three marks of a great person:

- *One who is a great thinker;*
- *One who is a great lover;*
- *One who is a great doer.*

A. Intellectual Objectives:

1. To understand what constitutes the discipline of the philosophy of religion (what it is), and what distinguishes it from other separate but related academic and scientific pursuits (psychology, sociology, anthropology, and history of religion, as well as a dogmatic and biblical theology, apologetics and polemics).
2. To become acquainted with selected issues in the philosophy of religion, to comprehend various positions held on controversial aspects of these issues (almost all of them!), and to come to tentative conclusions about what one thinks about these matters.

B. Emotional or affective objectives:

1. To appreciate the fact that questions within the domain of the philosophy of religion about God, evil, truth, reason, etc. are the most important ones that can be asked and

answered since they have to do with the way human beings understand God and interpret the world and live in it.

2. To value the form and content of the arguments and counter arguments that thinkers have advanced in support of various positions in relation to philosophical questions about religion as these document humanity's quest for understanding and wholeness.

3. To welcome the intellectual stimulation and personal rewards that come from the study of the philosophy of religion.

C. Volitional objectives:

1. To enter fully into the great conversation and debate in Western culture that has been stimulated by the rich legacy of the classical theistic view of God, and by the magisterial issues raised by philosophers of religion that have radically informed our world and life view.

2. To deploy critical abilities and powers of discernment in the assessment of the validity and justification of various issues in the philosophy of religion so as to form reasonable opinions about them.

3. To utilize the intellectual and spiritual results of this investigation into the discipline of the philosophy of religion toward the development, application, and communication of a biblical world and life view.

III. Course Requirements, Grading, and Pedagogy

*"Reading maketh a full man;
Conference [conversation] a ready man;
Writing an exact man!"
—Francis Bacon, Of Studies*

A. Course Requirements:

1. **Reading** (15%): There are three sets of reading assignments scheduled for this class. You must read the material in its entirety to receive credit for each set of readings each of which is worth 5% of your total grade. You will report on whether or not you have completed the assigned readings on the following dates: February 26, April 4, and May 7.

2. **Internet Assignment** (NC): Each student is required to examine three websites on the topic of the philosophy of religion. They are The Center for Philosophy or Religion directed by Alvin Plantinga at the University of Notre Dame: <http://www.nd.edu/~cprelig/> and the second one is the Evangelical Philosophical Society: <http://www.epsociety.org/> and the third is the Society of Christian Philosophers: <http://www.siu.edu/~scp/>. After you have examined these sites (and their links), write up a two page, word-processed, single-spaced report on your discoveries. Due very quickly: Jan. 31!

3. **Analysis and Evaluation** (10%). Each student will write a short paper of 5 pages, word-processed, double-spaced, on an analysis and evaluation of Alvin Plantinga's reformed epistemology, due February 14.

4. **Small Groups and Position Papers** (20%): The class will be divided into groups of about five students each. Each group will meet on two occasions this semester for discussion about (1) the divine nature and action, (2) religious pluralism. After your

discussion session, ***each student will individually*** write up a position paper on each topic, stating WHAT you believe and WHY regard each issue (over which there is much controversy). The paper on divine nature and action is due Mar. 28 and the paper on religious pluralism is due April 30. Each paper is to be 5 pages, word-processed, double-spaced, and is worth 10% of your grade.

5. **Tests** (55%): Three tests will be given in this course. The first is on Feb. 26; the second is scheduled for April 4; and a final exam will be on May 12. Each test is worth 18% of your total grade. Reviews will be provided.

B. Grading:

- *A-* = 90-93; *A* = 94-97; *A+* = 98-100 % ***Excellent:***
Excellent = top notch, superior, first rate/class, exceptional, superlative; paper and tests; class attitude, attendance, note taking, participation, posture, interest, etc.
Comprehensive excellence is needed for a superlative grade in this course.
- *B-* = 80-83; *B* = 84-87; *B+* = 88-89%: ***Above average***
- *C-* = 70-73; *C* = 74-77; *C+* = 78-79%: ***Average***
Average = mediocre, commonplace, ordinary, passable, fair, run-of-the-mill, tolerable, so-so, mid point between extremes of excellence and failure.
- *D-* = 60-63; *D* = 64-67; *D+* = 68-69%: ***Below average***
- *F* = 59% and below: ***Failure***—Omission or lack of satisfactory performance of action or task, inadequate, unsuccessful, inferior, impassable, etc.

C. Pedagogy: class will be conducted by means of lecture, question and answer, and discussions.

IV. Textbooks:

- Steven B. Cowan, ed. *Five Views on Apologetics*. Counterpoints, Stanley N. Gundry, series ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Dembski, William A. *Intelligent Design: The Bridge Between Science and Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*. New York: Simon and Schuster, A Touchstone Book, 1944, 1996.
- Michael Peterson, et. al., *Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Michael Peterson, et. al. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

V. Tentative Course Schedule:

FVA = *Five Views-Apologetics*; RRB = *Reason and Rlgs Belief*
ID = *Intelligent Design* PRSR = *Philosophy Rlgn: Selected Rdgs.*
Abolition = *Abolition of Man*

<i>Class #</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Content</i>	<i>Assignments Due</i>
1	Jan 22	Intro to the Course	
2-3	Jan 24/27	Introduction to Phil. Religion	RRB, Chp 1

FAITH, REASON, AND APOLOGETICS

4-7	Jan29,31 Feb3,5	Faith and Reason: How Related? 3 Parables on Faith/Reason Aquinas and Clifford Kierkegaard and James Wm. J. Abraham	RRB: Chp 3 3 Parables Handout PRSR: Pt 2-pp. 67ff; pp. 80ff PRSR: Pt 2-pp. 86ff; pp. 94ff PRSR: Pt 2-pp. 98ff Internet assg. Jan. 31
8-10	Feb7,10,12	Knowing God w/o Arguments A. Plantinga, Reformed Objection...	RRB: Chp. 6; Cowan, chp. 5 PRSR: Pt. 6-pp. 329ff Analys/Eval. Ppr due Feb. 14
11-15	Feb14,17 19,21,24	Apologetics: Five Views Introduction Classical Apologetics Evidential Apologetics Cumulative Case Apologetics Presuppositional Apologetics	Apologetics: 5 Views Cowan, Intro Cowan, chp 1 Cowan, chp 2 Cowan, chp 3 Cowan, chp 4
16	Feb26	Test #1	RR1 Due
<u>GOD'S EXISTENCE, ATTRIBUTES, ACTIONS AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL</u>			
17-20	Feb28 Mar3,5,7	Theistic Arguments: Arguments for God's Existence Anselm and Gaunilo Aquinas Betty and Cordell Lewis	RRB: Chp 5 PRSR: Pt 4-pp. 165ff PRSR: Pt 4-pp. 187ff PRSR: Pt 4-pp. 218ff PRSR: Pt 4-pp. 241ff
21-23	Mar17,19,21	Divine Attributes Hick and Maimonides Aquinas and Mavrodes Boethius and Wolterstorff	RRB: Chp 4 PRSR: Pt 3-pp. 113ff PRSR: Pt 3-pp. 124ff PRSR: Pt 3-pp. 136ff
24-25	Mar24,26	Divine Action	RRB: Chp 8
26-28	Mar28,31 April 2,	Problem of Evil Augustine and Hume	RRB: Chp 7 PRSR: Pt 5-pp. 251ff Div Att/Act ppr due Mar. 28
29	April4	Test #2	RR #2 Due
<u>ETHICS, DIVERSITY, SCIENCE</u>			
30-33	Apr7,9,11,14	Religious Ethics C. S. Lewis	RRB: Chp 14 Abolition of Man
34-36	Apr16,21,23	Religious Diversity Hick	RRB: Chp 13 PRSR: Pt 7-pp. 560ff
37-42	Apr25,28,30	Religion and Science	RRB: Chp 12

	May 2, 5, 7	Intelligent Design	ID, chps 1-5, 7-8 Rlgs. Plrsm ppr Apr30 RR#3 due May 7
43	May 12 Mon.	TEST #3/FINAL 8-10 am	

“Christ Himself is called the Logos by Christians and Pagan philosophers alike. This means that He is wisdom itself. Did he not show us this, indeed, in teaching the gospel and disputing with His opponents? He wanted us, in hearing and living His teaching, in being really Christians, to be in this way perfect philosophers.”

—*The Twentieth Century Encyclopedia of Catholicism, vol. 12, page 74.*

*How charming is divine philosophy (sapientia christiana), Not harsh and crabbed as dull folks suppose; But musical as is Apollo’s lute, And a perpetual feast of nectared sweets.
Comus, —John Milton*

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- Ayer, A.J. ***Language, Truth, and Logic***. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1952.
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- Brown, Colin. 1969. *Philosophy and the Christian Faith*.
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- Davis, Stephen T. ed., *Death and Afterlife*. London: Macmillan, 1989.
- Davis, Stephen T. ***Risen Indeed: Making Sense of the Resurrection***. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Dawkins, Richard. *The Blind Watchmaker*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1986.
- Evans, C. Stephen, and Merold Westphal, eds. ***Christian Perspectives on Religious Knowledge***. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
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- Ferre, Fredrick. *Language, Logic, and God*. New York: Harper and Row, 1969.
- Feuerbach, Ludwig. ***The Essence of Christianity***. Trans. George Eliot. New York: Harper, 1957.
- Gilson, Etienne Henry. 1938. *Reason and Revelation in the Middle Ages*.
- Helm, Paul. *Faith and Understanding*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Henry, Carl Ferdinand Howard. 1990. *Integrating Faith and Learning* (Video recordings)
- Hick, John. *An Interpretation of Religion: Human Responses to the Transcendent*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Hick, John. *Christianity and Other Religions*. Glasgow: Collins, 1980.
- Hick, John. ***Disputed Questions in Theology and the Philosophy of Religion***. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.

- Hick, John. *Faith and Knowledge*. Ithaca, N.Y. Cornell University Press, 1999.
- Hoitenga, Dewey, J., Jr. **Faith and Reason from Plato to Plantinga: An Introduction to Reformed Epistemology**. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991.
- Hume, David. **Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion** (1776). Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co.
- James, William. **Varieties of Religious Experience** (1902). New York: NAL Penguin, 1958.
- Kant, Immanuel. 1960c. *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*.
- Kierkegaard, Søren. **Fear and Trembling**. Trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.
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Classroom Policies and Procedures

Dr. David Naugle

I. Absences and Tardiness

- Students are expected to come to class regularly and be on time.
- Each student is allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences for MWF classes, and two unexcused absences for TTh classes per regular long semester without grade penalty. This number will be calculated proportionately for other semesters (short summer and winter terms, long summer and winter, mini terms, etc.). According to the DBU catalog, students cannot miss over 25% of classes & pass the course.
- Additional unexcused absences and habitual tardiness will result in **a significant grade reduction** which will be determined at the discretion of the professor. No credit is given for attendance, but excessive absences can be the basis for lowering the final grade at the discretion of the professor.
- Excused absences must be approved by the professor; in some cases, a note from a proper authority may be required. Students who will be away from class for an extended period of time (e.g., for emergencies, medical problems, military service, varsity sports, work related matters, etc.) are expected to notify and explain the situation to the professor. Failure to do so may result in grade reduction.

II. Papers, Tests, Printers, and Academic Misconduct

- Students are expected to turn assigned work in on time, that is, during the class period for which it is assigned. Papers (essays, term themes, etc) will be accepted late, **but they will be penalized 10 points per day they are late, including weekends if there**

is no proper excuse for its tardiness. For example, a paper due on a Wednesday, but not turned in until Friday will be docked 20 points. A paper due on a Friday, but not turned in until Monday will be docked 30 points.

- Students are also expected to take tests on the day they are assigned. In case of a *real* emergency (*severe* illness, accident, etc.), a student may take a test late without penalty (a note from a proper authority may be required to verify the emergency). Unexcused absences on the day of testing will result in 10-point grade reduction per day until the test is taken weekends included. Students must make the necessary arrangements with the professor to make up the test *as soon as possible*.
- **Papers will not be accepted that are printed with a used, worn out ribbon that renders the paper virtually unreadable.** Students are responsible for having their paper printed in such a way that the words are clear, dark, and clearly discernible.
- Incidents of cheating, plagiarism (presenting someone else's work as your own), collusion, abuse of resource materials, and computer misuse will be dealt with according to the guidelines in the 1999-2001 DBU catalog on page 79-82, and current schedule of classes, p. 21

III. Financial Aid, Disabilities, and Posting of Final Grades

- **Financial Aid:** Students who are receiving federal, state, or institutional financial aid who withdraw or add hours during the semester may have their financial aid adjusted because of the withdraw or addition. This change in schedule may affect the aid they are receiving during the current semester, and could affect their eligibility for aid in the future.
- **Disabilities:** The student has the responsibility of informing the course instructor of any disabling condition, which will require modifications to avoid discrimination. DBU provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aid to individuals with disabilities as defined under law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution's academic requirements. It is the student's responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. For assistance call Sonya Payne @ 214-333-5125.
- **Posting of Final Grades:** Each faculty member has the right either to post or not post final course grades for each class. Final course grades provided to a student by a faculty member may not be relied upon as official. Official grade reports can be obtained only through the DBU Registrar's Office. The DBU undergraduate and graduate catalogs state that "all accounts must be paid in full before a student can receive grade reports." Students are not permitted to telephone the professor, contact the dean's office, or use email to inquire about their final grade. Please understand that this policy is for the purpose of protecting the privacy of student's grades.

IV. Classroom Attitude and Demeanor

Students are expected to exemplify proper classroom behavior, attitudes, and etiquette including such things as:

- **Sitting up straight**
- Listening attentively
- **Taking notes**
- Remaining focused
- Doing your very best
- Participating enthusiastically

Students are not allowed to:

- Talk or chatter disruptively, slouch or take a nap
- **Work on material for other classes while class is in session**
- **Read extraneous material while class is in session** (Newspaper, Sports Illustrated, Cosmo, etc.)

Phones and pagers:

If possible, please adjust all phones and pages so they will not disturb class proceedings. If possible, please wait until the class is completed or until there is a break to attend to calls and pages. Emergency situations are, of course, excepted.

Based on your instructor's personal judgment, **Final Grades** will be influenced by how well students comply with the above attitudes and expected behavior. Remember: you are no longer in middle school or high school! When controversial topics are being discussed in class, before you speak out, you should (1) make sure you understand the ideas being presented, (2) learn something from them, (3) and then learn how to criticize them constructively and with civility. Also, make sure comments or questions **pertain to the subject matter** under consideration.

V. The New GPA Grading System:

A+.....	4.00	A	4.00	A-	3.67
B+.....	3.33	B	3.00	B-	2.67
C+.....	2.33	C	2.00	C-	1.67
D+.....	1.33	D	1.00	D-	0.67
F	0.00				