



SOUTHERN
EVANGELICAL
SEMINARY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Department: Philosophy
Campus: On Campus
Course Title: Philosophy of Religion
Course Number: PH601
Credit Hours: 3
Semester/Year: Spring / 2013

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I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

“A critical analysis of issues found in philosophical analyses of religion, including faith and reason, miracles, God’s existence, the problem of evil, etc.” (SES Catalog)

This course provides an overview of the main philosophical ideas and arguments associated with belief in God and especially with the God-world relation.

II. ROLE OF THE CLASS IN PROGRAM OF STUDY

This class is a Philosophy or any area elective for all graduate degree students and is required for the M.A. and M.Div. in Apologetics and the M.A. in Philosophy.

III. OBJECTIVES: After completing the course, the student should be able to understand, articulate, and argue the following problems in the philosophy of religion:

- 1. The existence of God.**
- 2. The coherence of the concept of God, notably divine attributes.**
- 3. The world as creation.**
- 4. The problem of evil.**
- 5. The problem of good.**
- 6. Divine action in the world, notably miracles.**

7. **The relation between faith and reason.**
8. **The nature of religion generally.**
9. **Sources of religious knowledge (revelation, experience, etc.).**
10. **The challenge of anti-religious philosophies.**

IV. **REQUIRED RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE**

Dawkins, Richard, *The God Delusion*. New York: Mariner, 2008. [**GodDelusion**]

Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, and David Basinger (eds.), *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings, 4th ed.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. [**SelectedReadings**]

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th ed.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Wainwright, William J. (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. [**OxfordHandbook**]

V. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE**

All work must be typed or done a PC. Further, all papers must use Turabian, 7th ed., when appropriate documentation is required.

1. Before classes begin, read **OxfordHandbook**, chapters 1–16.
2. Try to get through as much of **SelectedReadings**, parts one thru ten (pp. 5–460), before class begins and during the class week, but be sure to complete all this reading after the class week.
3. Read **GodDelusion** to write critical review of it.

VI. **GRADING**

1. Comprehensive final exam in Moodle — 50 percent (due by August 17, 2013).
2. 6,000- to 8,000-word critical review of **GodDelusion** — 50 percent (due by August 17, 2013).
3. Regular class attendance and active class participation.
4. Single-page executive summary of YOU (with clearly recognizable picture of yourself) emailed to me by second day of class.

5. All assignments and work must be uploaded in Moodle by the end date for the course:
August 17, 2013.

VII. SCHOOL POLICIES: ATTENDANCE AND PLAGIARISM

The school attendance and plagiarism policies as stated in the most recent edition of the Southern Evangelical Seminary Student Handbook will be enforced.

VIII. OTHER SUGGESTED READINGS OR BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Bibliographies at the end of required textbooks.