

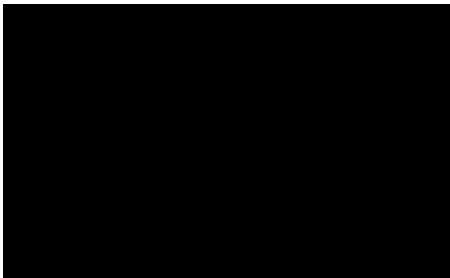
Course Information



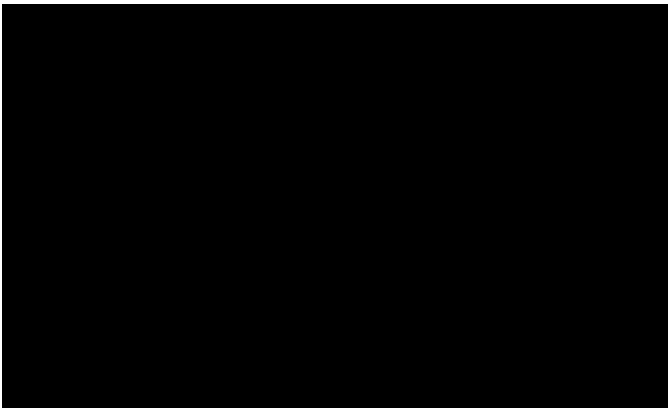
Phil. of Religion (HU)

PHIL 2350 [REDACTED]


Fall 2024



Course Section Information



Phil. of Religion (HU)

PHIL2350 

Course Description

This course will explicate and evaluate some of the truth-claims made by the major world religions concerning the nature of reality and humanity's relationship to it. It will address such classic topics in Philosophy of Religion as conceived of by the major Western monotheistic traditions (i. e. , Judaism, Christianity, Islam).

Semester: All

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Investigate common philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God, including the problem of evil, free will, and the characteristics of deity.
- Identify, compare, analyze, and evaluate claims made in the philosophy of religion for logical validity and soundness.
- Provide coherent syntheses of multiple, often conflicting positions regarding people's beliefs about deity, miracles, ethics, and faith.
- Express, orally and in writing, philosophical arguments based on accurate understanding of reputable sources, citing them in a professional and ethical manner.
- Make connections between how religious beliefs and practices fit within the larger context of being human.
- Explore the relationship between religious claims and beliefs, and how individuals express these beliefs, analyze them, and justify them in their daily lives.
- Identify the connections that philosophy of religion has to other disciplines like anthropology, sociology, and psychology.

- Identify and organize one's own personal beliefs and practices in order to engage and participate in public life with those who differ in perspectives and worldviews.
- Use language consistent with a respectful attitude toward diversity of religious belief.

Communication Plan

- I will respond to email within [REDACTED]. I will offer feedback on major assignments within [REDACTED]. The best way to contact me is through [REDACTED] as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.
- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.
- Lastly, we'll be holding small group Q & A sessions, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

none

Transfer, Certification, Licensure, and Employment Information

This course will transfer directly into the philosophy and religious studies' departments of The University of Utah

Course Content Warnings/Trigger Warnings

Sensitive and critical topics about God and religion, things many find sacred.

How to Succeed in the Course

Participate, ask questions, participate, ask questions, participate and ask questions.

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

Title: Peterson, Michael, Hasker, William, Reichenbach, Bruce and Basinger, David, Eds. Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion.

New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Fifth Edition. ISBN: 978-0-19-994657-0

This text is referred to as the 'reader' Peterson, Michael, Hasker, William, Reichenbach, Bruce and Basinger, David, Eds. Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. Fifth Edition. ISBN: 978-0-19-93044-1 This text is referred to as 'readings'

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

General Education Information

HU

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/26	Submit answers to Handout 1	Assignment	10
8/28	About me	Discussion	20
9/11	Submit answers to Handout 2	Assignment	10
9/14	First discussion	Discussion	20
9/18	Submit answers to Handout 3	Assignment	10
9/21	Second discussion	Discussion	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/28	Third discussion	Discussion	20
10/2	Exam 1	Quiz	50
10/7	Submit answers to Handout 4	Assignment	10
10/12	Fourth discussion	Discussion	20
10/14	Submit answers to Handout 5	Assignment	10
10/21	Submit answers to Handout 6	Assignment	10
10/26	Fifth discussion	Discussion	20
10/26	Sixth discussion	Discussion	20
11/3	Midterm Paper	Assignment	100
11/4	Exam 2	Quiz	50
11/6	Submit answers to Handout 7	Assignment	10
11/9	Seventh discussion	Discussion	20
11/11	Submit answers to Handout 8	Assignment	10
11/16	Eighth discussion	Discussion	20
11/18	Exam 3	Quiz	50
11/20	Submit answers to Handout 9	Assignment	10
11/23	Ninth discussion	Discussion	20
11/25	Submit answers to Handout 10	Assignment	10

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/30	Tenth discussion	Discussion	20
12/4	Exam 4	Quiz	50
12/4	Attendance	Assignment	50
12/4	E portfolio/Reflective Writing	Assignment	50
12/4	Final Paper	Assignment	100
12/4	In class participation	Assignment	50

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

1. Handout/Homework uploads: 25% of grade; 10 uploads, 10 points per upload.

There are 10 handouts incorporated right into the modules of Canvas that is your homework (they are also under the Files tab of Canvas). You will be prompted by Canvas to do 10 online submissions of these handouts/homework throughout the semester after you complete the readings on the handouts, using the Modules, and watching the video lectures. You may of course work ahead if you want, just makes sure you are uploading these by the due dates, which is usually on the weekend, Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Each module is divided into 4 week sets though, so the first set of handouts you will have approximately 4 weeks to complete them. All handout questions are taken from the textbooks and added websites on each handout and the modules will help you understand and answers those questions more thoroughly, as well as the added video lectures. You may need extra notes to answer the handout questions, as the space I provide on the handout may not be adequate. All test questions are taken directly from these handouts; so, fill them out carefully and add to them from the discussions as needed. You will receive 10 points for each completed handout. Completed handouts are those that have all the questions answered to the best of your abilities by the due date and uploaded to Canvas by the due date. Partially completed and late handouts may receive half-credit (5 points) although Canvas will grade them automatically as a 0 and lock you out if you do not turn it in on time, and you may receive no points if the handout

is not uploaded at all. These handouts cannot be made up, so please get into the habit of submitting them to Canvas when completed. Simply put, this is your homework and students who do their homework invariably do better in the class.

2. Discussions: 25% of grade 10 discussions, 20 points per discussion.

Discussions are between you and your peers. I rarely get involved in these other than a remark or two possibly. This is your time to respond to a specific question relating to the religion we are studying and to discuss that topic with at least two of your peers, responding to their comments. I realize this may seem like busy work to many students, but it is a very successful way of connecting with others, which is what religion is about, during the semester. These are also due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday after the 4 weeks are up. Follow the grading rubric carefully to get full points. The grading rubrics are generally found when you open the assignment. Another way is to click on the three dots near the assignment and it should allow you to "view rubric."

3. Exams: 4 exams = 50 points each = 200 points = weighted 20% of grade

There will be 4 exams with 3 essay questions and 4 short answer questions. Exam 1 is on the information on Handouts 1, 2 and 3. Exam 2 is on the information on Handouts 4, 5 and 6. Exam 3 is on the information on Handouts 7 and 8, and Exam 4 is on the information on Handouts 9 and 10. The short answer questions on the exam are usually just a few sentences. The essay questions must be answered in essay format, where you must answer the question(s) with 3 to 5 clear paragraphs (at least three sentence paragraphs please). I also include a few extra credit questions. All exam questions are taken directly from the handouts with some variations. The handouts cannot be used during the test, nor can you use your notes, the modules, or the Internet to help you during the exam. I give you time to study before taking the exam, but once you begin it, you will only have an hour and half to complete it. Now here is the kicker--I am going to treat you all like adults and I am not going to administer your exams via Proctorio (the testing system with a lock-down browser). They will appear as quizzes and I will open them on Friday's and give you the entire weekend until Sunday at 11:59 p.m. to complete it but you will only have an hour and a half once you open the exam to complete the exam. What this means is, if you are inclined to cheat and use your notes or the modules or the Internet to help you on the exams, that is all on you. The "gods" will be watching you, your conscience will know, karma will know, and they will be much harsher on you than I ever could. If that sounds like a major guilt trip, it is not meant to be. What it is

meant to be a sign of respect between you, as my students, and me, your professor. Straight up, I am going to respect you and trust you not to cheat. I hope you will afford yourself (and me) the same respect.

4. Midterm and Final Paper: 20% of grade; 2 papers. 100 points per paper.

You will be required to write two, 5 to 7-page double-spaced 'argumentative' papers about a topic in the philosophy of religion. These topics are already on Canvas, including sample "A" papers from past students, and you may choose from the subjects provided under the topics under the Files Tab (they are called Midterm Paper topics and Final paper topics). This is not necessarily a research paper, but a testing of your knowledge and comprehension about a topic in the philosophy of religion and your ability to communicate and reproduce that argument including your position on the matter through writing. I provide you with the paper topics on Canvas and you must use those topics. Once you submit the paper via Canvas, here is how you view my comments after your submission: https://ursinus.instructure.com/courses/2839/pages/view-instructor-comments?module_item_id=87880. I am happy to help you during the writing process of your papers, so please do not hesitate to ask for help with your thesis statements, formulation/reproduction of arguments, and/or anything relating to the writing of your papers if it's not too close to the due date. I provide sample philosophy papers on Canvas, too. I also encourage you to use the writing center (<http://www.slcc.edu/swc/> Links to an external site.). Details about the structure and content of these papers are explicated below with the grading rubric on Canvas and I will go over these criteria in a video when the assignment is given. One of these papers must be chosen as your 'signature assignment' to be included in your e-Portfolio with reflective writing about the paper topic/assignment. Your paper will be graded on the criteria included in the next heading. Details of the signature assignment and what may be included as reflective writing can be found at www.slcc.edu/gened/eportfolio Links to an external site.. If you have not created an e-Portfolio yet, you must do so during the semester. I am again letting you know that I am happy to help you during the writing process of your papers, so please do not hesitate to ask for help with your thesis statements, formulation of your arguments, and/or anything relating to the writing of your papers. Make sure you view and read at least one of the sample papers on Canvas so you have an idea what I am looking for.

Grading Scale

Grading

A: 94-100% B+: 87-89% C+: 77-79% D+: 67-69% E: below 60%

A-: 90-93% B: 84-86% C: 74-76% D: 64-66%

B-: 80-83% C-: 70-73% D- 60-63%

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

You can access the document by clicking on the following link:

<https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab:

<https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab: <https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Additional Class Policies

Be nice to each other online