



MASTER COURSE OUTLINE

Prepared By: Dennis Knepp

Date: September 2017

COURSE TITLE

Philosophy of Religion

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Dept.: PHIL

Course Num: 240

(Formerly:)

CIP Code: 38.0101

Intent Code: 11

Program Code:

Credits: 5

Total Contact Hrs Per Qtr.: 55

Lecture Hrs: 55

Lab Hrs: 0

Other Hrs: 0

Distribution Designation: Humanities HU

COURSE DESCRIPTION (as it will appear in the catalog)

Philosophy of religion is an attempt to think critically and rationally about religious issues. This course will use classic and contemporary texts to explore several interesting issues such as the problem of evil: if God is all knowing, all powerful, and all good, then why do the innocent suffer? Many philosophers have tried to answer that question and more.

PREREQUISITES

None

TEXTBOOK GUIDELINES

Appropriate college level text(s) as chosen by instructor

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate the following knowledge or skills:

1. Describe some major movements in the history of the philosophy of religion
2. Describe several major issues in the philosophy of religion such as Aquinas' Five Ways, Anselm's Ontological Proof, the Euthyphro Dilemma, the problem of evil, etc.
3. Distinguish among several different philosophical viewpoints on a given topic
4. Discuss important topics in a philosophical manner
5. Explain in writing several issues in the philosophy of religion

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

IO1 Communication: Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively.

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE

1. A major philosophical movement of the ancient world.
2. A major philosophical movement of the modern world (Descartes to Nietzsche)
3. Important historical issues in the philosophy of religion such as
 - a. St. Anselm's Ontological Proof

- b. St. Thomas Aquinas' Five Ways
 - c. The Euthyphro Dilemma
 - d. The problem of evil
 - e. Theodicy
 - f. Hermeneutics
 - g. Existentialism
 - h. Pascal's Wager
4. Important contemporary issues in the philosophy of religion such as
- a. Liberation Theology
 - b. Feminist Theology
 - c. Religious pluralism
 - d. Contemporary apologetics

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES *(optional)*

A writing component and a minimum of two exams over the material is required. Other grading instruments will be based on a number of different assessment tools selected by the instructor and designed to meet the needs of the coursework. This may include short essays, quizzes, in-class discussion, attendance, research paper on a major philosopher, philosophical issue or movement, etc.

PO5 should be assessed: Students will be able to solve problems by gathering, interpreting, combining and/or applying information from multiple sources.

DIVISION CHAIR APPROVAL

DATE