

Philosophy of Religion

PHIL-3303

20/SR Section SP01 01/21/2020 to 05/13/2020 Modified 02/05/2020

Meeting Times

01/21/20 - 05/13/20 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 09:00AM - 09:50AM SGMC - 109 Main Campus

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jared Brandt

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Office Hours

MWF 2-4; TTH 1-2 and 3:30-4:30

Collins 207

(and by appointment)

Course Description

A critical examination of the nature and validity of religious experience and the place of religion in human life. Terms Offered: Spring, Online.

Requisites

PHIL 2301.

Learner-Centered Outcomes

- The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the important texts and arguments within the Philosophy of Religion and explain their significance in the Western intellectual tradition.
- The student will be able to interpret and understand these important texts and arguments.
- The student will be able to communicate (verbally and in writing) in an effective and persuasive manner (including clear evidence of critical thinking) on philosophical and theological issues.
- The student will gain a stronger self-understanding and a more insightful worldview through applying the insights of these philosophical texts.
- The student will be able to analyze philosophical and theological issues (especially those raised by these texts) through a Christian worldview.
- The student will cultivate important moral and intellectual virtues through the practices embedded within and associated with this course.

Materials

Philosophy of Religion

Author: Evans and Manis
Publisher: InterVarsity
ISBN: 0830838769

Confessions

Author: Augustine
Publisher: Hackett
ISBN: 0872208168

Writing Philosophy

Author: Vaughn
Publisher: Oxford
ISBN: 0195179569

✓ Assignments

Requirements for Credit

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Assignment	Weight / Points	Week Due	Details
Daily Quizzes	10%		In Class
Reading Journal	20%		Due before class
Midterm Exam	20%		
Final Exam	20%	5/13 at 8:00am	
Term Paper	15%		
Virtue Journal	5%		
Class Participation	10%		

Breakdown

The **Daily Quizzes** will be short quizzes (3-5 questions) taken at the beginning of class. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you complete the assigned reading. For that reason, they will not be difficult; if you've done the reading, you'll do well.

The **Reading Journal** will give you a chance to engage one of the readings for the week on a deeper level. I will post questions for each reading on Blackboard and you will write an essay of 250-400 words in response to **one** of the questions. These are due *before class* on the day that we discuss that particular reading. This means you will write and submit your essay before we have discussed the reading together in class. For that reason, you will not be expected to have mastered the material. I am looking for a thoughtful and informed attempt to answer the question in light of the reading. You are responsible for **one entry per week**. Submit these essays on Blackboard before class. I will not accept them late. I will grade 3 of your essays over the course of the semester (selected randomly) and average these 3 scores. *All essays will be evaluated in six ways: Are they the appropriate length? Do they show a thoughtful and informed attempt to answer the question in light of the reading? Do they show creativity and effort? Are they well written? Do they integrate faith and learning (when appropriate)? Do they integrate class discussion and readings effectively (when appropriate)?*

The **Midterm Exam** will be a take-home exam consisting of short essay questions. I will give you a week to complete the exam and it will be due on March 1st by 11:59 pm. You are encouraged to use your primary texts and class notes to complete the exam, but you may not use any other resources.

The **Final Exam** will be in class on May 13th at 8:00 am. It will be composed of two parts. The first will be multiple choice and short answer questions to test your knowledge of the content of the readings. The second part will involve short essay questions requiring interpretive and comparative work.

The **Term Paper** is a longer essay (1800-2200 words) on one of the topics addressed in the course. I will provide prompts that you can address as we go along, but you are also welcome to choose your own topic. If the latter, you must get your topic approved by me. The paper is due May 2nd by 11:59pm. If you are choosing your own topic, you must get it approved before April 19th. See *Writing Philosophy* for a guide for paper format. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

The **Virtue Journal** will include three entries that address your experience as we seek to cultivate the virtue of Charity through the Christian practice of silence. You'll write the first entry before we begin in which you'll respond to a short reading on silence (due by 11:59pm on 2/22). You'll write a second entry midway through the experience (due by 11:59pm on 3/25). Finally, you'll write a third entry reflecting on the experience as a whole and its impact on your Charity (due by 11:59pm on 4/18). Each entry needs to be 300-400 words.

Class Participation is very important in this class as it will primarily involve group discussion. You are expected to have read all of the assigned reading before class and to have completed the daily writing. During class, you are expected to be engaged in the class discussion and contribute appropriately. **To minimize distractions, you should not use electronics (phones, computers, tablets, etc) unless you have asked permission of the instructor for a special reason.** I expect that most students will receive the full 10% for participation. However, points will be lost for the following reasons: more than one unexcused absence, using unauthorized electronic devices during class, and lack of engagement during class.

Institutional Policies

Requirements for Undergraduate and Graduate Credit

When a 5000-level Graduate course is cross-listed with a 4000-level Undergraduate course or a 7000-level course is cross-listed with a 6000-level course, the syllabus clearly defines specific graduate requirements which reflect appropriate deeper learning experiences and rigor in the higher-level course.

Attention Education Certification Students: Go to [dbu.edu/education/requirements](http://www.dbu.edu/education/requirements) (<http://www.dbu.edu/education/requirements>) for essential program requirements.

Attendance Policy

According to DBU academic policy, attendance in class is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Therefore, absences for all reasons must be kept to a minimum and should not exceed 25 percent of the total class time. Students are held responsible for all academic work required or performed during their absence regardless of the reasons for those absences. Students who register late are responsible for work missed. The policy concerning class attendance for individual courses, seminars, or other guided learning experiences will be determined by the faculty members in charge of such course, seminar, or learning experience.

GPA Scale

The GPA grading scale adopted by DBU for courses is:

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				

** No grades of D are awarded for graduate courses

Service-Learning

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy which integrates academic instruction, community service, and guided reflection from a Christ-centered, faith-based perspective in order to enhance student learning, to foster global civic

responsibility, and to develop servant leaders. All courses play an important role in providing the student with an appropriate curricular foundation for service-learning. Designated service-learning courses incorporate a field-based component to provide the student with a curricular service-learning experience

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 future semesters.

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the **Dean of Students**, at (214) 333-5340, of any disabling condition for which the student will request course modifications and/or accommodation. Dallas Baptist University 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 choice and responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. Required documentation must be provided before the university can make accommodations.

University Honor Code/Academic Appeal and Academic Misconduct Procedure

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The faculty member endorses the **University Honor Code** and abides by the **University's Academic Appeal and Academic Misconduct Procedure** as stated in the Student Handbook and the Schedule of Classes.

Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated at Dallas Baptist University and may result in expulsion.

Final Course Grades

Official final course grades are available only online through the WebAdvisor System. The Registrar's Office will only mail grades to a student upon request. The Dallas Baptist University undergraduate and graduate catalogs state that "All accounts must be paid in full before a student can...receive transcripts..." According to FERPA, faculty may not provide final grade information to students via telephone, email, posting or any other source which might compromise student confidentiality.

Children in Classes and Unaccompanied Children

Minors who are not DBU students are not permitted to attend class. Furthermore, minor children may not be unaccompanied on any property owned or operated by Dallas Baptist University. For their safety and welfare, unaccompanied children on any property owned or operated by Dallas Baptist University will be escorted to the Campus Security Office or other duly authorized location and the parents or guardians will be summoned to pick them up immediately.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices shall only be used for course specific work. The professor reserves the right to ban their use at any time. The policy concerning electronic devices for individual courses, seminars, or other guided learning experiences will be determined by the faculty members in charge of such course, seminar, or learning experience.

Electronic Communication Policy

The DBU campus e-mail system, or any other form of DBU electronic communication (i.e. Blackboard, class discussion, Collaborate) may not be utilized as an avenue to advertise the selling of goods or soliciting of donations from students, faculty, staff or members of the university community.

Graduating Students Grades

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if graduating this semester. Final exams for graduating students will be given earlier. Final grades for graduates are due in the Registrar's Office by noon on the Monday before Commencement ([see Academic Calendar \(https://www.dbu.edu/academics/calendar\)](https://www.dbu.edu/academics/calendar)). These grades are final. The instructor will not submit late grades for graduates nor change grades once they are submitted.

Schedule

All courses taught in a classroom include at least one online session.

(May change during the semester)

When	Topic	Notes
1/22	Introduction	
1/24	What is Philosophy of Religion?	E & M 17-35
1/27	Philosophy and Theology	"Athens and Jerusalem" by Eleonore Stump
1/29	Divine Attributes: Perfection	E & M 36-42 Selection from Morris' Our Idea of God
1/31	Divine Attributes: Simplicity	Selection from Aquinas' Summa Theologica
2/3	Divine Attributes: Omnipotence	Lewis: Problem of Pain Ch. 2 (selection)
2/5	Divine Attributes: Omniscience	Selection from Aquinas' Summa Theologica E & M 42-52
2/7	Divine Attributes: Goodness	Lewis: Problem of Pain Ch. 3
2/10	The Doctrine of the Incarnation	Selection from Morris' Our Idea of God
2/12	The Doctrine of the Trinity	Selection from Morris' Our Idea of God
2/14	Arguments for God's Existence: The Ontological Argument	E & M 55-67 Selection from Anselm's Proslogion
2/17	Arguments for God's Existence: The Cosmological Argument	Selection from Aquinas' Summa Theologica E & M 67-77
2/19	Arguments for God's Existence: The Design Argument	Selection from Aquinas' Summa Theologica E & M 77-87
2/21	Arguments for God's Existence: The Moral Argument	Selection from Lewis' Mere Christianity E & M 87-97 VJ Entry 1 due 2/22 by 11:59pm
2/24	Augustine	<i>Selections from SEP Article on Saint Augustine</i>
2/26	Augustine	<i>Confessions 1</i>
2/28	Augustine	<i>Confessions 2</i> Midterm Exam due 3/1 by 11:59pm
3/2	Augustine	<i>Confessions 3</i>
3/4	Augustine	<i>Confessions 4</i>
3/6	Augustine	<i>Confessions 5</i>
3/9-3/13	Spring Break	
3/16	Augustine	<i>Confessions 6</i>

When	Topic	Notes
3/18	Augustine	<i>Confessions 7</i>
3/20	Augustine	<i>Confessions 8</i>
3/23	Augustine	<i>Confessions 9</i>
3/25	Guest Speaker	C. Stephen Evans (Baylor University) VJ Entry 2 due by 11:59pm.
3/27	Augustine	<i>Confessions 10 Chapters 1-29 (pp 187-211)</i>
3/30	Augustine	<i>Confessions 10 Chapters 30-43 (pp. 212-229)</i>
4/1	Augustine	<i>Confessions 11</i>
4/3	Augustine	<i>Confessions 12</i>
4/6	Augustine	<i>Confessions 13</i>
4/8	Religious Experience	<i>E & M 98-115</i> Paper proposals and outlines due 4/9 by 11:59pm
4/10	No Class	Good Friday
4/13	Religious Experience	<i>"Religious Experience as Perception of God" by William Alston</i>
4/15	Revelation	<i>E & M 116-125</i>
4/17	Miracles	<i>E & M 125-137</i> <i>"On Miracles" by Hume</i> VJ Entry 3 due 4/18 by 11:59pm
4/20	Religion and Science	<i>E & M 138- 155</i> <i>"Faith and Science" by Pope John Paul II</i>
4/22	Evil	<i>E & M 156-172</i>
4/24	Evil	<i>Selection from Lewis' The Problem of Pain</i>
4/27	Hell	<i>Selection from Lewis' The Problem of Pain</i>
4/29	Divine Hiddenness	<i>"Divine Hiddenness Justifies Atheism" by Schellenberg</i> <i>E & M 180-182</i>
5/1	Faith and Reason	<i>E & M 183-211</i> Term Paper due 5/2 by 11:59pm
5/4	Religious Pluralism	<i>Selection from "Religious Pluralism" by John Hick</i> <i>E & M 211-216</i> <i>"Religious Inclusivism" by Karl Rahner</i>
5/6	Course Conclusion	
5/13	Final Exam	8:00am

