PHILOSOPHY 261 A01 2015
Philosophy of Religion
Course Outline
CRN 12562

Instructor: Dr. Allison Barnes

Email: abarnes@uvic.ca
Office: Clearihue B309
Phone: 853-3767 (during office hours only)
Office hours: Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m and Wednesday 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m, or by appointment.

I hope you enjoy the course. Please talk to me if you have questions about the course material.

Time: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.
Place: Clearihue A203

See the 261 CourseSpaces page for on-line resources, your grades, and class announcements.

Course objective:
The aim of the course is to examine philosophical issues concerning the rationality of religious belief. Our examination will include both classical arguments and contemporary issues. Topics include the nature of religious experience, religious diversity and public life, the nature and plausibility of arguments for and against theism, the distinction between faith and reason, and the relation between science and religion. This fascinating course requires active participation, including reading assigned material before each class meeting and active participation in class discussions.

Lectures and class attendance:
Note that lectures will almost always introduce concepts and figures that are not mentioned in class readings. Examination and test questions are based on lecture content. Lectures will be mixed with in-class learning activities. Be prepared to discuss and debate reading material in class. Taking time to think about and make notes on your readings and other study activities is important to your learning process. I recommend that you use a notebook, journal or electronic file to keep an ongoing record of your work. Well-maintained notes will provide an invaluable support to your successful completion of the tests, in class exercises, and final exam.

“Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. A department may require a student to withdraw from a course if the student is registered in another course that conflicts with it in time. An instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be
refused permission to write the final examination in a course (UVic Academic Calendar 2015-2016).”

**Registration status:** Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Sept.22: 100% withdraw refund deadline  
Oct.13: 50% withdraw refund deadline  
Oct.31: Academic drop deadline

**Course requirements:**
1. The first mid-term test will count **25%** toward the final grade. Format will be short written answer. **Date:** Oct.2  
2. The second mid-term test will count **35%** toward the final grade. Format will be short and longer written answer. **Dates:** Nov. 3&4  
3. The final examination will count **40%** toward the final grade and is cumulative. Questions will include short and longer essay style answers. The final exam will be scheduled in the December exam period.

**Grading scheme:**
- A+ 90-100  
- A 85-89  
- A- 80-84  
- B+ 77-79  
- B 73-76  
- B- 70-72  
- C+ 65-69  
- C 60-64  
- D 50-59  
- F 0-49

For N grades and DEF status, please see the UVic Academic Calendar. Quizzes and essays will be returned in class as soon as they are graded. Final examinations are the property of the UVic, and will not be returned. Students’ grades are available through [www.uvic.ca/mypage](http://www.uvic.ca/mypage).

**Important: A note on cheating:**
You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- Copying the answers or other work of another person  
- Sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests and examinations except where the instructor has authorized collaborative work  
- Having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners
• Impersonating a candidate on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such impersonation
Candidates found communicating with one another in any way or having unauthorized books, papers, or communication devices such as cell phones and PDA’s in their possession, will be considered to be in violation of the University Policy on Academic Integrity (UVic Academic Calendar 2015-16).

**Other useful resources on plagiarism and cheating include:**


2. The English Department: http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/CitPlagiarism.html

**Missed tests and exam:**
You are responsible for attending scheduled tests and examination. If you miss any of the tests for a justifiable reason (i.e. illness, accident, or family affliction), your course requirement percentage weighting will be adjusted. Note that you must provide documentation of your illness or accident. Otherwise, you will receive a score of zero. If you miss the final exam deadline for an allowable reason (i.e. illness, accident, or family affliction), you must apply to Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession". This application must be made within ten working days of missing the exam (See Annual Calendar). If this request is approved, you will be assigned a make-up exam. If this request is not approved, you will receive a score of zero.

Information regarding religious observance can be located in the UVic Calendar, and in posted Philosophy Department Policies.

**Course experience survey (CES):**
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey you will receive an email inviting you to do so. You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

*The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.*
**Class and reading schedule:**
The following is the schedule for the duration of the course. Any changes to required readings will be announced in class and posted on CourseSpaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Topic and Reading</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation and Introduction</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religious Experience:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>William James</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Religious Experience as the Root of Religion”</td>
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<tr>
<td>William P. Alston</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Religious Experience as Perception of God”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religious Diversity and Public Life:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor</td>
<td>Sept. 22, 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Moral Pluralism, Neutrality, and Secularism”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor</td>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Public Sphere and Private Sphere”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Quebec”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Test #1</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Faith and Reason:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>William Clifford</td>
<td>Oct. 6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Ethics of Belief”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blaise Pascal</td>
<td>Oct. 9, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Wager”</td>
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<tr>
<td>William James</td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Will to Believe”</td>
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<td><strong>Arguments for Theism:</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 16, 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anselm</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Classical Ontological Argument”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Reichenbach</td>
<td>Oct. 21, 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Cosmological Argument”</td>
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Pantheism:

William Mander SEP
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pantheism/#PanRel

Test #2

Religion and Science:

Dan Dennett
“An evolutionary account of religion”

Stephen Jay Gould
“Two Separate Domains”

Richard Dawkins
“Science Discredits Religion”

J.L. Mackie
“Evil and Omnipotence”

Paul Tillich
“Religious Language as Symbolic”

Review

Oct. 27, 28, 30

Nov. 3, 4

Nov. 6, 13, 17

Nov. 18

Nov. 20

Nov. 24, 25

Nov. 27, Dec. 1

Dec. 2, 4