PHILOSOPHY 261 A01 2016
Philosophy of Religion
Course Outline
CRN 12531

Instructor: Dr. Allison Barnes

Email: abarnes@uvic.ca
Office: Clearihue B309
Phone: 853-3767 (during office hours only)
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m and Wednesday 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m, or by appointment.

Time: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
Place: Clearihue C112

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 religious experience and belief. Topics include the nature of religious experience, religious diversity, politics, 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. Well-maintained notes will provide an invaluable support to your successful completion of the tests, in class exercises, and final exam.

Policy on technology use in class: Out of respect for your fellow students and for the instructor, please turn off phones before coming to class. Please do not use phones in class. Computers are permitted in class. Students using computers are asked to sit at the back of the classroom to avoid distraction to fellow students.

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. 20: 100% withdraw refund deadline
Oct. 11: 50% withdraw refund deadline
Oct. 31: Academic drop deadline
Course requirements:
1. The first mid-term test will count 20% toward the final grade. Format will be written answer. Date: Sept. 23
2. The second mid-term test will count 40% toward the final grade. Format will be written answer. Dates: Nov. 1 & 2
3. A take-home final examination will count 40% toward the final grade and is cumulative. Format will be written answer. Due Date: Dec. 9

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>.

Cheating on Work, Tests and Examinations: Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

• Copying the answers or other work of another person.

• Having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners.

• Sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests, or examinations.

• Impersonating a student on an examination or test.

Students found communicating with one another in any way or having unauthorized books, papers, notes or electronic devices in their possession during a test or examination will be considered to be in violation of this policy. (Academic Calendar 2016-17)

Missed tests and exam due date:
You are responsible for attending scheduled tests and meeting the final examination due date. 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 due date 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 due date (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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation and Introduction</td>
<td>Sept. 7, 9</td>
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**Religious Experience:**

William James
“Religious Experience as the Root of Religion”

Sept. 13

William P. Alston
“Religious Experience as Perception of God”

Sept. 14

**Religious Diversity and Public Life:**

Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor
“Moral Pluralism, Neutrality, and Secularism”

Sept. 16, 20

Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor
“Public Sphere and Private Sphere”

Sept. 21

**Test #1**

Sept. 23

Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor
“Quebec”

Sept. 27
Martha Nussbaum “Fear: A Narcissistic Emotion” Sept. 28, 30

**Faith and Reason:**

William Clifford
“The Ethics of Belief” Oct. 4, 5

Blaise Pascal
“The Wager” Oct. 7, 11

William James
“The Will to Believe” Oct. 12

**Arguments for Theism:**

Anselm
“The Classical Ontological Argument” Oct. 14, 18

Bruce Reichenbach
“The Cosmological Argument” Oct. 19, 21

**Pantheism:**

William Mander SEP Oct. 25, 26, 28
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pantheism/#PanRel

**Test #2** Nov. 1, 2

**Religion and Science:**

Dan Dennett
“An evolutionary account of religion” Nov. 4, 8, 15

Stephen Jay Gould
“Two Separate Domains” Nov. 16

Richard Dawkins
“Science Discredits Religion” Nov. 18

J.L. Mackie
“Evil and Omnipotence” Nov. 22, 23

Paul Tillich
“Religious Language as Symbolic” March 25, 29

Review Nov. 30, Dec. 2

**Take-Home Exam Due** Dec. 9