

**PHILOSOPHY 261 A01 2017**  
**Philosophy of Religion**  
**Course Outline**  
**CRN 12510**

**Instructor:** Dr. Allison Barnes

**Email:** abarnes@uvic.ca

**Office:** Clearihue B309

**Phone:** 250 853-3767 (during office hours only)

**Office hours:** Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., or by appointment.

**Time:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

**Place:** Clearihue C112

**Text:** M. Peterson, W.Hasker, B.Reichenbach & D. Basinger, Eds. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. New York: *Oxford University Press*, 2014. Fifth Edition.

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

**Course objective:** The aim of the course is to examine and discuss 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, and the distinction between faith and reason. The goal is to develop a solid understanding of the key areas in philosophy of religion, and to engage critically with key textual sources in the field.

Lectures are designed to make the reading material **accessible and understandable** to students.

**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 writing 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.

**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. 19: 100%** withdraw refund deadline

**Sept. 22: Add** deadline

**Oct. 10: 50%** withdraw refund deadline

**Oct. 31: Academic drop** deadline

**Course requirements:**

1. The first mid-term test will count **15%** toward the final grade. Format will be written answer. **Date: Sept. 20**
2. The second mid-term test will count **20%** toward the final grade. Format will be written answer. **Date: Oct. 24**
3. A (6 page, double spaced) essay will count **25%** toward the final grade. The topic, instructions, grading criteria, and late submission policy will be provided in advance. **Due Date: Nov. 8**
4. The final examination will count **40%** toward the final grade. Format will be written answer. A study guide will be provided in advance. The exam will be 2 hours in length and 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.

Tests 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)>.

**It is important for all students to read the following policy on Academic Misconduct in the UVic 2017-18 Calendar via <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>** Here are two sections of the policy:

**Plagiarism:** A student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- Submits the work of another person in whole or in part as original work  
gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the
- student's work, including failing to indicate clearly (through accepted practices within the

discipline, such as footnotes, internal references and the crediting of all verbatim passages through indentations of longer passages or the use of quotation marks) the inclusion of another individual's work

- Paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgment as described above

The university reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software programs to detect plagiarism in essays, term papers and other work.

**Cheating on Tests and Examinations:** Any instance of impersonation of a student during an exam should result in a grade of F for the course for the student being impersonated, and disciplinary probation for the impersonator (if he or she is a student). Isolated instances of copying the work of another student during an exam should result in a grade of zero for the exam. Systematic copying of the work of another student (or any other person with access to the exam questions) should result in a grade of F for the course. Any instance of bringing unauthorized equipment or material into an exam should result in a grade of zero for the exam. Sharing information or answers for take-home assignments and tests when this is clearly prohibited in written instructions should result in a grade of zero for the assignment when such sharing covers a minor part of the work, and a grade of F for the course when such sharing covers a substantial part of the work. (Academic Calendar 2017-18)

**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 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 the exam 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):** Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. 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. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. 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 probable schedule for the duration of the course. Any changes to required readings will be announced in class and posted on CourseSpaces.

Class Topic and Reading	Date
Orientation and Introduction	Sept. 6
<b>1. Religious Experience:</b>	
William James "Religious Experience as the Root of Religion"	Sept. 8, 12
William P. Alston "Religious Experience as Perception of God"	Sept. 13, 15, 19
<b>Test #1 (Unit #1)</b>	<b>Sept. 20</b>
<b>2. Religious Diversity and Public Life:</b>	
Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor "Moral Pluralism, Neutrality, and Secularism"	Sept. 24
Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor "Public Sphere and Private Sphere"	Sept. 25
Jocelyn MacLure and Charles Taylor "Quebec"	Sept. 27
Martha Nussbaum "Fear: A Narcissistic Emotion"	Sept. 29, Oct. 3
<b>3. Faith and Reason:</b>	
William Clifford "The Ethics of Belief"	Oct. 4
Blaise Pascal "The Wager"	Oct. 6
William James "The Will to Believe"	Oct. 10
<b>4. Arguments for Theism:</b>	
Anselm "The Classical Ontological Argument"	Oct. 11, 13

Bruce Reichenbach  
“The Cosmological Argument”

Oct. 17, 18, 20

**Test #2 (Units 3 and 4)**

**Oct. 24**

**5. Pantheism:**

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

Oct. 25, 27, 31

**5. Religion and Science:**

Dan Dennett  
“An Evolutionary Account of Religion”

Nov. 1, 3, 7

**Essay Due**

**Nov. 8**

Stephen Jay Gould  
“Two Separate Domains”

Nov. 8

Richard Dawkins  
“Science Discredits Religion”

Nov. 10

**6. The Problem of Evil:**

J.L. Mackie  
“Evil and Omnipotence”

Nov. 17, 21, 22

**7. Religious Language:**

Paul Tillich  
“Religious Language as Symbolic”

Nov. 24, 28

**Review**

Nov. 29, Dec. 1