THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY PHIL 331 Lec 01 "Philosophy of Religion" Winter 2009

Instructor: Jeremy Fantl Email: <u>jfantl@ucalgary.ca</u> Office: Social Sciences 1224 Phone: 220-5022 Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:00-1:50

Course Description:

The course addresses some central themes in traditionally western philosophy of religion. What are the attributes of God and what do they entail? Can we provide good argument or evidence that God exists? Is faith a belief or a practice? Can we reconcile strong religious belief with religious pluralism? How can we account for the presence of evil in a world with a loving, all-powerful God? Must faith without reason be irrational? Would that be so bad?

Texts:

Paterson, Hasker, et. al., Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings

Graded Work:

1) Two *papers*, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 25%), due March 10th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (April 16th). *Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late, up to 4 letter grades. Papers not turned in will receive a zero.*

2) A take-home *midterm exam* (worth 25%), due February 24th.

3) A Registrar-scheduled final exam (worth 25%).

Letter Oraces translate to numerical values according to the following scheme.					
	A+: 98.33	B+: 88.33	C+: 78.33	D+: 68.33	F: 55
	A+/A: 96.67	B+/B: 86.67	C+/C: 76.67	D+/D: 66.67	
	A: 95	B: 85	C: 75	D: 65	
	A/A-: 93.33	B/B-: 83.33	C/C-: 73.33		
	A-: 91.67	B-: 81.67	C-: 71.67		
	A-/B+: 90	B-/C+: 80	C-/D+: 70		

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme:

Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest official letter grade.

Disclaimer Page

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;
- parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or
- a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, <u>humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca</u> or 220-3913.

<u>Syllabus</u>

Part I: The Content of Religious Belief

January 13, Tues: Intro	
January 15, Thurs: Religious Realism	Trigg, "A Defense of Religious Realism"
January 20, Tues: Religious Pluralism	Hick, "Religious Pluralism"
January 22, Thurs: Religious Uniqueness	Griffiths, "The Uniqueness of Religious
	Doctrines"

Part II: The Problem of Evil

January 27, Tues: The Argument from Evil	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"
January 29, Thurs: The Requirements of	Aquinas, "God is Omnipotent"
Omnipotence	
February 3, Tues: Paradoxes of	Mavrodes, "Some Puzzles Concerning
Omnipotence	Omnipotence"
February 5, Thurs: The Free Will	Plantinga, "The Free Will Defense"
Response	
February 10, Tues: Omniscience and Free	Pike, "Divine Omniscience and Voluntary
Will	Action"
February 12, Thurs: Suffering and Soul-	Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy"
Making	

Part III: Belief Without Evidence

February 24, Tues: Contentless Belief?	Flew and Mitchell, "The Falsification Debate"
February 26, Thurs: Gambling on Belief	Pascal, "The Wager"
March 3, Tues: The Evidence	Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief"
Requirement	
March 5, Thurs: Fear vs. Hope	James, "The Will to Believe"

Part IV: Theistic Arguments

March 10, Tues: The Argument from	Alston, "Religious Experience as
Religious Experience	Perception of God"
March 12, Thurs: A Critique of the	Martin, "Critique of Religious Experience"
Argument from Religious Experience	
March 17, Tues: A Traditional Teleological	Paley, "The Analogical Teleological
Argument	Argument"
March 19, Thurs: A More Recent	Betty and Cordell, "The Anthropic
Teleological Argument	Teleological Argument"
March 24, Tues: A Critique of the	Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural
Teleological Argument	Religion, selection (on Blackboard)
March 26, Thurs: A Traditional	Aquinas, "The Classical Cosmological
Cosmological Argument	Argument"
March 31, Tues: A Second Cosmological	Craig, "The Kalam Cosmological

Argument	Argument"
April 2, Thurs: A Critique of the	Mackie, "Critique of the Cosmological
Cosmological Argument"	Argument"
April 7, Tues: A Traditional Ontological	Anselm, "The Classical Ontological
Argument	Argument"
April 9, Thurs: A Critique of the Traditional	Gaunilo, "Critique of Anselm's Argument"
Ontological Argument	
April 14, Tues: A More Recent Ontological	Plantinga, "A Contemporary Modal
Argument	Version of the Ontological Argument"
April 16, Thurs: Wrap-Up and Exam	Essay #2 due
Review	