

**Philosophy of Religion
Philosophy 301
Spring 2013**

Instructor: Philip M. Mouch

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Where: MacLean 165

When: T&H 3:00-4:15

Office Hours: M&W: 10:30-1:00;

T&H: Noon-2:30; and by appointment

homepage: <http://www.mnstate.edu/mouch/301/301index.html>

Couse Description: An examination of religions from a philosophical standpoint. The course will discuss such issues as the existence and nature of God, religious experience, and life after death.

Reading Assignments and Texts: The reading assignments are listed below. You should read assignments before coming to class. Be sure to bring the text to class. The required texts for this class are:

Steven M. Cahn, Exploring Philosophy of Religion, Oxford University Press (2009)
Walpola Rahula, What the Buddha Taught (revised edition), Grove Press (1974)

Learning Outcomes (General):

1. Explain major proposals describing the nature of God.
2. Evaluate major proposals describing the nature of God.
3. Explain arguments in favor of theism.
4. Evaluate arguments in favor of and opposed to theism.
5. Explain arguments in favor of and opposed to atheism.
6. Evaluate arguments in favor of and opposed to atheism.
7. Explain major issues related to religious diversity.

Evaluation:

- (1) There will be two exams in this class, the mid-term and the final. Each will be worth 30% of your grade.
- (2) There will be one paper due in the class. The due date is listed on the schedule. It is worth 30% of your grade.
- (3) There will be informal writing (reading questions and the like) worth 10% of your grade.

Policies:

(1) Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any failure to properly cite a source you use in your paper will result in a failing grade for that paper, and possibly failing the course and/or reporting the incident to the Student Conduct Committee. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please come talk to me.

(2) You are responsible for all assignments to be handed in. Late papers will be penalized. Excuses such as you handed in the paper to my mailbox, slid it under my door, or gave it to a friend to hand in are unacceptable. I will take such papers, but if the paper never showed up for whatever reason, it will count as late. You should be in class to hand in all assignments; otherwise you take the risk of not getting credit for your work. Informal writing cannot be made up. You either turn it in on time, or you don't get credit for that assignment. The final exam will be held on the day listed on the syllabus. Please plan accordingly.

(3) You are expected to be in class and have done the reading for the day. It is simple courtesy to be in class on time and in your seat. If you have to be late for some reason, please enter the room and take your seat quietly, so as not to disturb the class. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING CELLPHONES, PAGERS, AND IPODS). Do not engage in text messaging during class. Finally, do not stand up and walk out in the middle of the class period. This is distracting and rude to the other students and me. If you must leave early for some reason, please talk to me before class and sit near the door.

Schedule: *These dates are tentative. I will make any necessary changes in class. Assignments should be read before class on the day that they are assigned. Except where noted, all readings refer to the Cahn book.*

Jan 15	Introduction
Jan 17	God's Goodness and Omnipotence (pp. 5-10)
Jan 22	God's Foreknowledge and Human Free Will (pp.11-20)
Jan 24	God's Eternity (pp. 20-25)
Jan 29	God and Forgiveness (pp. 25-38)
Jan 31	God and Worship (pp. 38-43)
Feb 5	The Ontological Argument (pp. 47-59)
Feb 7	
Feb 12	The Cosmological Argument (pp. 59-73)
Feb 14	
Feb 19	The Design Argument (pp. 74-96)
Feb 21	
Feb 26	The Problem of Evil (pp. 97-124)
Feb 28	
March 5	The Problem of Evil (continued)
March 7	Midterm
March 12	Spring Break - No Class
March 14	Spring Break - No Class
March 19	Rahula: Chapters 1-5 (<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , pp. 1-50)
March 21	Rahula: Chapters 1-5 (<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , pp. 1-50)
March 26	Rahula: Chapters 6-8 (<i>What the Buddha Taught</i> , pp. 51-89)
March 28	Paper Assigned
April 2	Miracles (pp. 151-161)
April 4	Mysticism (pp.162-187)
April 9	The Wager (pp.191-195)
April 11	The Will to Believe (pp. 195-217); Paper Due

April 16 **Academic Conference - No Class**
April 18 Faith (pp. 230-248)

April 23 Resurrection and Immortality (pp. 257-282)
April 25

April 30 Religious Pluralism (pp. 285-324)
May 2

May 2 Last Day of Class

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 13 @ 3:00 pm

Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Director of Disability Services at 477-4318 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), Flora Frick 154 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Information regarding Disability Services is available at <http://web.mnstate.edu/disability/>