PHIL R110: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Originator
chorrock

College
Oxnard College

Discipline (CB01A)
PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number (CB01B)
R110

Course Title (CB02)
Philosophy of Religion

Banner/Short Title
Philosophy of Religion

Credit Type
Credit

Start Term
Fall 2021

Catalog Course Description
This course provides an introduction to fundamental concepts exhibited in the world's religions, as well as a critical exploration of reasons for and against widely held religious doctrines. Topics include: the attributes of God, arguments for and against God's existence, the nature of religious experience, mysticism and miracles, the problem of evil, the possibility of life after death, the contrast between faith and reason, and religious pluralism.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)
1509.00 - Philosophy

Course Credit Status (CB04)
D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)
A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)
N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)
E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)
Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)
Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)
Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)
1 - Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)
Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)
N - Course is not a support course

Field trips
May be required

Grading method
Letter Graded

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?
No

Repeatable for Credit
No

Is this course part of a family?
No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override
No

In-Class

Lecture
Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5
Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours
52.5

Activity

Laboratory

Total in-Class

Total in-Class
Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5
Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours
52.5

Outside-of-Class

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Paid

Unpaid

Total Outside-of-Class

Total Outside-of-Class
Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours
105
Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours
105

Total Student Learning

Total Student Learning
Total Minimum Student Learning Hours
157.5
Total Maximum Student Learning Hours
157.5

Minimum Units (CB07)
3
Maximum Units (CB06)
3

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1	Students will demonstrate improved critical writing skills using philosophy of religion subject matter as the basis.
2	Students will identify the major issues and arguments in the philosophy of religion.
3	Students will develop the ability to think critically, objectively, scientifically, and linguistically about religious claims and issues.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1	Identify key religious terms, concepts and and uses of religious language.
2	Identify goals, methods, issues and problems associated with philosophy, religion, and philosophy of religion.
3	Identify the primary attributes of God and the divine.
4	Contrast and critique the arguments for and against the existence of God.
5	Assess, using standard philosophical methodology, the nature and value of religious experience.
6	Describe the difference, similarity, and interrelationship between faith and reason.
7	Recognize and discuss the profound difficulty in resolving the problem of evil.
8	Compare and contrast belief in supernatural miracles with views expressed in terms of scientific naturalism.
9	Evaluate and contrast claims regarding life after death and immortality.
10	Analyze the similarities and differences among current, as well as previous, worldwide religious traditions.

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content
1. Philosophy, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion
2. What is religion?
    a. Religious language
    b. Methods of studying religion/s
    c. Religion in contrast with religions
    d. Differing conceptions of divinity

      i. Eastern Religions
        1. Taoism
        2. Hinduism
        3. Buddhism
        4. Confucianism
      ii. Western Religions
        1. Judaism
        2. Christianity
        3. Islam
      iii. Indigenous/Pre-literate traditions
    e. Rituals and practices (worldwide)

3. Divine attributes/God's attributes
   a. The nature of God's power
      i. Omnipotence
      ii. Omniscience
      iii. Omni-benevolence
      iv. Omni-presence
   b. Multi-cultural perspectives on divine attributes
   c. Time and eternity
      i. Cyclic conceptions of time
      ii. Asymmetric conceptions of time
4. Non-Western Proofs for God's Existence
   a. Buddhist conceptions: Negation and emptiness
   b. Hindu conceptions: Whence consciousness?
5. Arguments for God's existence: Ontological Argument
   a. The Ontological Argument/s: St. Anselm
   b. Critique/s of the Ontological Argument: Immanuel Kant
6. Arguments for God's existence: Cosmological
   a. The Cosmological Argument/s: Aquinas "The Five Ways"
   b. Critique/s of the Cosmological Argument
7. Arguments for God's Existence: Teleological (Arguments from Design)
   a. The Argument from Design
   b. The Watchmaker Argument: William Paley
   c. Critique of the Argument from Design: David Hume
   d. Darwinian evolution
   e. Critique of evolution: Richard Swinburne
8. Religious Experience
   a. Indigenous experience and animism
   b. Eastern perspectives
   c. Revelation: e.g., William James, "Varieties of Religious Experience"
   d. Miracles: e.g., Richard Swinburne
   e. Critique of miracles: David Hume, "Against Miracles"
   f. Feminists, Philosophers and Mystics
9. Faith and Reason
   a. Fideism
   b. Existentialism
   c. Rationality and justified religious belief
   d. Pragmatism
   e. The verification problem
   f. Hinduism: intellect and intuition
10. The Problem of Evil
    a. The theodicy problem
    b. Critiques for and against the theodicy problem
    c. Mencius: Human nature is good
    d. Global perspectives on the nature of evil
11. Death and Immortality
    a. Life after death (life after life)
    b. Resurrection

        c. Reincarnation
        d. Critiques of theories of the afterlife
12. Religious Language
        a. Symbols all around
        b. Metaphorical theology
        c. Does "God-talk" make sense?
        d. Divinity as pre-analytic/pre-reflective
13. Religious Pluralism
        a. Varieties of religions
        b. Arguments for exclusivist religious beliefs/traditions
        c. Arguments for inclusivist religious beliefs/traditions
        d. The future of religion?
14. Religion and Ethics
        a. Moral/religious private life
        b. Popular religion and Liberation theory
        c. African-American Revolutionary Christianity
        d. Confucius/Analects
        e. Religion and Human Rights

Laboratory or Activity Content

None

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):

Written expression

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):

Essay exams
Essays
Group projects
Objective exams
Quizzes
Reports/papers
Research papers

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

Audio-visual presentations
Computer-aided presentations
Class discussions
Distance Education
Field trips
Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis
Lecture

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

1. Instructor will direct interactive instructional activities asking students to compare and contrast differing philosophical and cultural conceptions concerning the nature of ultimate reality.
2. Guided and focused class discussions of representative philosophical and theological subject areas, topics, questions, and theories. These discussions would elicit student opinions on the relationship between a theoretical position and a more general topic; a religious perspective relative to another a religious perspective; and/or a a religious perspective relative to (ordinary) practice/s, and/or non-religious points of view.
3. Instructor will show video/s distinguishing the relationship between philosophy and its methods of experience and reasoning, with that of religion/spirituality (both in general, and specifically with regard to the East and West) and those (specific) methods of experience and analysis/evaluation.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

1. (Analyze a philosophical quote): "God is the idea that than which nothing greater can be conceived." (3-5 pg.)
   a. Analyze what Anselm might have meant by this statement (giving reasons for your views)
   b. Discuss what you think about Anselm's argument, especially in relation to other proofs for God
   c. Summarize Gaunilo's critique of Anselm's argument, (e.g. what are the assumptions he claims that Anselm makes?; What are the strengths and weaknesses of Gaunilo's argument/analysis, etc.)
   d. Summarize your own views, in light of the ones you just discussed.
2. (Short-answer writing for a quiz): "What is the difference between having an 'ordinary experience' and having a 'religious and/or spiritual experience'? in 100 words or less."
3. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of several arguments based on "Design" with several criticisms of Design in the universe as well as the Design argument itself. Note: include criticisms of criticisms; that is, recreate a dialogue or a back-and-forth debate. (7-10 pg.)
4. Multi-choice exam questions on the similarities and differences between Eastern and Western perspectives, e.g. on a) issues, b) theories/perspectives, c) solutions, and d) problems/challenges

Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Participate in class and small group discussions which engage in dialogue about notions of "soul," (philosophical, religious/spiritual, and personal/self-referential).
2. Compare and contrast personal (Western theological) conceptions of a/the Deity with conceptions of an impersonal universe (Eastern; modern scientific; etc.), and their relationship/s to/with corresponding views of knowledge.

Reading Assignments

1. Samples of primary source readings:
   a. Aquinas, "Is God's Power Unlimited?"
   b. Anslem, "The Ontological Argument"
   c. Sri Aribindo, "Whence this Consciousness?"
   d. Kant, "A Critique of the Ontological Argument"
   e. Paley, "The Watch and the Watchmaker"
   f. James, "Mysticism"
   g. Black Elk's Vision
   h. John Cobb, "Emptiness and God"
   i. Pascal, "The Wager"
   j. Hume, "The Argument from Evil"
   k. Freud, "The Future of an Illusion"
   l. John Fire/Lame Deer, "Symbols All Around"
   m. Plato, "Phaedo" (the immortality of the soul)
   n. Sri Aribindo, "The Reincarnating Soul"
   o. Russell, "A Free Man's Worship"
   p. Fritthjof Schuon, "The Transcendent Unity of Religions"

Skills Demonstrations

None

Other assignments (if applicable)

1. Review video lectures on topics in philosophy, religion, related to philosophy of religion.
2. Research electronic databases for additional material on philosophy of religion as well the world's religions more generally/culturally.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

1. Completing reading/s of primary source materials in philosophy of religion.
2. Completing reading/s of secondary source materials in philosophy of religion, including textbook materials,and other forms of interpretation.
3. Reviewing video of, for example, open-source university lectures on topics in philosophy of religion
4. Searching for video related to course topics, but not included in the syllabus, and/or course bibliography
5. Research electronic databases, e.g., Standard Encyclopedia of Philosophy, for additional material on a subject

6. Reviewing content found on university/4-yr. college philosophy department websites, including philosophy program features, instructor web pages (of recent work, professional background), student web pages, insofar as they are indicative of professional work within the field of philosophy of religion.
7. Weekly short essay assignments related to class lecture.
8. Library/Learning resource search-inquiries and assignments.
9. (Self)-Reports/-ing of searches/inquiries, outcomes of searches, interpretation/analysis of searches.

District General Education

A. Natural Sciences

B. Social and Behavioral Sciences

C. Humanities

C2. Humanities
Approved

D. Language and Rationality

E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology

F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies

CSU GE-Breadth

Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking

Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

Area C: Arts and Humanities

C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English
Approved

Area D: Social Sciences

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Area F: Ethnic Studies

CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:

IGETC

Area 1: English Communication

Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area 3B: Humanities
Approved

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)

Textbooks and Lab Manuals

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Peterson, M.; Hasker, W., Reichenbach, B. (2012). *Reason and Religious Belief.* (This is the most recent year available) Oxford University Press.

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Pojman, Louis P (2015). *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology* . Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Resource Type
Textbook

Description
Cahn, Steven M. (2015). *Exploring Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford University Press.

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities
Hybrid (51%–99% online)
Hybrid (1%–50% online)
100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.
Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.
Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board topic such as the difference between an absolute/-ist and/or an objective position, and a subjectivist, or relativist/-ic and/or skeptical position, (in a philosophy of religion discussion/debate, such as the afterlife, faith vs. reason, etc.)

E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, theology, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Philosophy of Religion.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board topic such as the difference between an absolute/-ist and/or an objective position, and a subjectivist, or relativist/-ic and/or skeptical position, (in a philosophy of religion discussion/debate, such as the afterlife, faith vs. reason, etc.)
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, theology, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Philosophy of Religion.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Students will post a discussion board topic such as the difference between an absolute/-ist and/or an objective position, and a subjectivist, or relativist/-ic and/or skeptical position, (in a philosophy of religion discussion/debate, such as the afterlife, faith vs. reason, etc.)
E-mail	Faculty will communicate with students via email regarding course information and concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may record audio recordings and/or video lectures on the course content including videos on metaphysics, epistemology, logic, social and political philosophy, theology, philosophy of science, and/or axiology...within the context of each one's (relative) impact on the field of Philosophy of Religion.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may utilize online live meetings with students to deliver lectures and have discussions on topics related to the course content.

Examinations

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality
Online
On campus

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality
Online
On campus

Primary Minimum Qualification
PHILOSOPHY

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair
09/19/2020

Dean
09/21/2020

Technical Review
10/28/2020

Curriculum Committee
10/28/2020

Curriculum Committee
11/25/2020

CCCCO
MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number
CCC000452635

DOE/accreditation approval date
MM/DD/YYYY