

**PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**  
**PHL XXX**  
**FALL/SPRING 2XXX<sup>1</sup>**

**Professor: Dr. Kevin J. Kukla**

- MEETING TIME: TBA
- OFFICE: TBA
- OFFICE HOURS: TBA
- OFFICE PHONE: TBA
- EMAIL: [kjkukla@bama.ua.edu](mailto:kjkukla@bama.ua.edu)
- WEB PAGE: <http://www.bama.ua.edu/~kjkukla/>

**Final Exam: TBA**

**Texts:**

- *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology (2007)* – Eds. Louis P. Pojman & Michael Rea. I will refer to this text by the letters, ‘PE’.
- *Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction 4<sup>th</sup> edition, (2006)* – William L. Rowe. I will refer to this text by the letter, ‘R’.
- *Philosophical Writing: An Introduction (1997)* – A.P. Martinich

**Course Description**

This course is an introductory course designed to give you a brief overview of some of the main issues in philosophy of religion. We will examine various arguments for the existence (and non-existence) of God; whether mystical experience can justify belief in God; what is the relationship between God’s foreknowledge and human freewill; whether we are ever justified in believing in miracles and how, if they occur, they fit into the scientific world view; the possibility of immortality; whether it is even rational to believe in God; the relationship between theism and non-theistic religions; and the debate between science and religion.

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<sup>1</sup>This document was written in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

## Evaluation

- 3 Papers: 75%
- Short Writing Assignments: 15%
- Attendance & Participation: 10%

## Attendance

You are allowed no more than 4 unexcused absences to be eligible for full participation/attendance consideration. Any undocumented absence beyond your fourth will result in 0% for your attendance/participation grade. Additionally, tardiness and sleeping in class is equivalent to an absence.

## Participation

Students are expected to attend class prepared to discuss critically the assigned readings. If ever the class fails to prepare adequately for class, I reserve the right to administer a quiz for that day.

## Grading Scale

- **A+** = 97 - 100%
- **A** = 93 - 96%
- **A-** = 90 - 92%
- **B+** = 87 - 89%
- **B** = 83 - 86%
- **B-** = 80 - 82%
- **C+** = 77 - 79%
- **C** = 73 - 76%
- **C-** = 70 - 72%
- **D+** = 67 - 69%
- **D** = 63 - 66%
- **D-** = 60 - 62%
- **F** = < 60%

## **Electronic Devices**

All electronic devices must be turned off before class begins. If a student's electronic device sounds during class, the student will be counted absent for that day.

## **Disability Access**

Students with disabilities should register with the Office of Disability Services, 205/348.4285. They should then provide the instructor with appropriate documentation and written requests regarding special accommodations. Students who wish to discuss such accommodations are invited to schedule appointments during the instructor's office hours.

## **Code of Misconduct**

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

*All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.*

## TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

WEEK	READING	TOPIC
1	<p><b>HAN:</b> Handout on Informal Logic</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 1</p>	Informal Logic/Attributes of God
2	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>The Ontological Argument</i>, St. Anselm, pp. 3 – 5</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 3</p>	The Ontological Argument
3	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>The Five Ways</i>, St. Aquinas, pp. 12 – 14</p> <p><b>HAN:</b> The Kalām Cosmological Argument</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 2</p>	The Cosmological & Kalām Cosmological Argument
4/5	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>The Watch and Watchmaker</i>, William Paley, pp. 54 – 63</p> <p><i>Critique of the Design Argument</i>, David Hume, pp. 56 – 63</p> <p><i>A Scientific Argument for the Existence of God</i>, Robin Collins, pp. 74 – 91</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 4</p>	<p>The Teleological/Fine-Tuning Argument</p> <p><b>ESSAY 1 TOPICS DISTRIBUTED (5<sup>th</sup> WEEK)</b></p>
6	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Mysticism</i>, William James, pp. 98 – 114</p> <p><i>A Critique of the Argument from Religious Experience</i>, Louis P. Pojman, pp. 127 – 136</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 8</p>	<p>Religious &amp; Mystical Experience</p> <p><b>ESSAY 1 DUE</b></p>

**TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE (Continued)**

WEEK	READING	TOPIC
7	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Rebellion</i>, Fyodor Dostoevsky, pp. 158 – 164</p> <p><i>Evil and Omnipotence</i>, J.L. Mackie, pp. 173 – 181</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 7</p>	The Problem of Evil
8	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>God’s Foreknowledge and Human Free Will are Incompatible</i>, Nelson Pike, pp. 249 – 260</p> <p><i>God’s Foreknowledge and Human Free Will are Compatible</i>, Alvin Plantinga, pp. 260 – 264</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 10</p>	God’s Omniscience & Human Free Will
9	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Against Miracles</i>, David Hume, pp. 276 – 285</p> <p><i>Of ‘Of Miracles’</i>, Peter Van Inwagen, pp. 285 – 295</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 8</p>	<p>Miracles &amp; the Modern World</p> <p><b>ESSAY 2 TOPICS DISTRIBUTED</b></p>
10	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Immortality and the Soul</i>, Plato, pp. 332 – 336</p> <p><i>Personal Identity and Life After Death</i>, Jeffrey Olen, pp. 345 – 355</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 9</p>	<p>Death &amp; Immortality</p> <p><b>ESSAY 2 DUE</b></p>
11		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>

### TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE (Continued)

WEEK	READING	TOPIC
12	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Rational Theistic Belief Without Proof</i>, John Hick, pp. 381 – 389</p> <p><i>Faith, Hope, and Doubt</i>, Louis Pojman, pp. 412 – 422</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 6</p>	Faith & Reason
13	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Religious Pluralism and Ultimate Reality</i>, John Hick, pp. 509 – 516</p> <p><i>A Defense of Religious Exclusivism</i>, Alvin Plantinga, pp. 516 – 530</p> <p><b>R:</b> Chapter 11</p>	Pluralism & Exclusivism
14/15	<p><b>PE:</b> <i>Science Versus Religion</i>, Richard Dawkins, pp. 426 – 430</p> <p><i>Nonoverlapping Magisteria</i>, Stephen Jay Gould, pp. 430 – 438</p> <p><i>Signs of Intelligence: A Primer on the Detection of Intelligent Design</i>, William Dembski, pp. 446 – 457</p> <p><i>Molecular Machines: Experimental Support for the Design Inference</i>, Michael Behe, pp. 457 – 466</p> <p><i>Born-Again Creationism</i>, Phillip Kitcher, pp. 466 – 474</p> <p><i>Natural Providence (Or Design Troubles)</i>, Michael J. Murray, pp. 474 – 489</p>	<p>Science &amp; Religion</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FINAL ESSAY TOPICS DISTRIBUTED (15<sup>th</sup> WEEK)</b></p>
16	Wrap-up	<p><b>FINAL ESSAYS DUE DURING FINALS WEEK</b></p>