

PHIL 3313: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
ASU DESIGNATED COMMUNITY ENGAGED CLASS¹
FALL 2014 (RAS 109)
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

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Office Hours: MW: 1:00PM-4:00PM; TR: 11:00AM-12:00PM. Others by appointment

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can come and visit, call me or send me an email. Let me know if we need to schedule an appointment for a different time that is convenient for both. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines some fundamental issues concerning the nature of religious belief, the relation between faith and reason, the arguments for and against the existence of God, and the problem of evil. The course has also a “practical” component which will help you apply the theoretical tools discussed in this class by reflecting on how you see them at work in the San Angelo community.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyse and critically evaluate past and contemporary approaches to various topics in Philosophy of Religion and will learn to effectively articulate their own positions (SR2.2)*
- Students will apply their knowledge specific to the course to become more responsible citizens (SR2.1)*
- Students will engage with the community they live in and will be able to apply the theoretical tools from this class in a reflective analysis of their exchange (SR3)*
- Students will develop the ability to think and write about the issues explored in class in a clear and a coherent manner.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (IDEA)

¹ As a CONNECTED! Course, this class pays particular attention to Civic Responsibility (SR2) and Community Engagement (SR3). This course will give you the opportunity to be part of the community by participating in a community-based research project. You will be required to reflect collectively and individually on issues pertaining to such community engagement.

* SR2: Civic Responsibility; SR2.1 Connecting Civic knowledge and responsibility; SR2.2 Civic communication

SR3: Community Engagement; SR3.1 Connecting Learning and Engagement; SR3.2 Community Action and Reflection

1. Develop skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing (IDEA #8)
2. **Acquire skills in critical analysis by learning how to critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view (IDEA #11)**
3. **Become familiarized with the ways different philosophers have approached different problems in Religious beliefs (IDEA #13)**

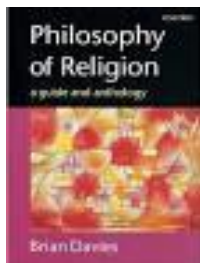
STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Assessment Type		Student Learning Outcome assessed	Weight as a Percentage
Class participation (critical analysis and discussion of reading assignments)*		1, 2, 3	20
Two short Essays (Critical Reflection)		1, 2, 3	20
Tests* (2)		1, 2, 3	30
Community project:	Questions	1, 2	5
	Peer Review		10
	Essay		15

*NOTE about absence policy: you can miss **up to five times for whatever reason**. You need not justify your absences. But remember that after 5 absences, you will not receive credit for class participation.

*One of the tests can be replaced by a research paper

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS



Author: Davies
ISBN: 9780198751946
Copyright: 2001
Publisher: Oxford University Press

GENERAL CLASS RULES

- **KEEP UP WITH THE MATERIAL:** You are expected to come to class prepared. Every assignment will allow you to follow the lecture and to participate in class discussion. Remember: reading philosophy requires time and patience. You should have questions regarding each day's reading assignment. If you have no questions, re-read the assignment
- **PARTICIPATE:** Active engagement with other members of the class and with me is a vital component of the philosophical learning experience. Class participation will help you

understand the material and share joys and sorrows with others. Remember that after 5 absences, you will not receive credit for class participation.

- **CHECK BLACKBOARD FREQUENTLY:** It is your responsibility to check due dates for all assignments and to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can find the course outline with an updated schedule on Blackboard. I will communicate with you as a group or as an individual throughout the semester. I may use Blackboard or regular email (please make sure to check the angelo.edu account)
- **ETIQUETTE:** Be respectful when you address other people (either other students or me). You may disagree with what other people are defending. The challenge is to show the weaknesses in their arguments and to build better ones. Insults do not make good arguments. Attack arguments, not people. Also, when you send me an email, remember my name (Dr. Badiola) and make sure you tell me yours. Please make sure to check your ASU email account (@angelo.edu), in case I have to contact you at any point during the semester
 - SWITCH MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRIC DEVICES OFF before entering the classroom
 - HAVE THE COURTESY TO INFORM ME in advance if you intend to leave before class ends. Sit at the back of the room so you can exit without disturbing anyone
- **CONTACT ME:** I will be more than happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course, any question about a particular issue or text or any inquiry on more bibliography about some topic you find engaging. Also if you feel that your grade does not reflect the work you put into this class, come and see me so we can discuss it. Please check my office hours and make sure to make an appointment with me if you cannot make it during those times.

THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the [Student Handbook](#).

AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request and to implement academic accommodations.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Course Outline	Tuesday	Thursday
Philosophy of Religion (readings from Brian Davies ed.) 1. Philosophy and Religious Belief	8/26 Course overview	8/28 Introduction (pp.1-24) Video 1 &2
	9/2 Aquinas (pp. 17-30)	9/4 Clifford and Flew (pp.31-41; 153-155)
	9/9 Malcolm (pp. 115-123) Discussion: Questions p. 123 Essay #1 (Bb)	9/11 Introduction part III Cosmological arguments 179-190; 194-201
2. Arguments for God's Existence	9/16 Some criticisms: Edwards (202-212) (?Mackie 213-229)	9/18 Contemporary Defence: Anscombe and Sadowsky 230-241
	9/23 Design Arguments: Aquinas and Paley (245-258)	9/25 Criticisms: Hume and Kant (260-273)
	9/30 Contemporary Defence: R. Swinburne (274-285) Hambourger?	10/2 Ontological Arguments (304-336)
	10/7 Criticisms: Kant (337-341)	10/9 Contemporary Defence: Plantinga (342-352)
	10/14 Essay #2 due and discussion, Community project questions due and appointment	10/16 Test 1
3. What is God?	10/21 393-394 Alternative conceptions of God Videos (Bb)	10/23 Omnipotence: Morris (396-414)
	10/28 Omnipotence: miracles and Laws of Nature (422-435)	10/30 Omniscience: 439-464
	11/4 Omniscience: Pike (464-472)	11/6 Simplicity: Aquinas & Morris (533-548)
4. The Problem of Evil and Evil as an arguments against God's existence	11/11 Simplicity: Davies (549-564) Peer Review comments due	11/13 Evil: 571-592
	11/18 Evil: Augustine and Swinburne (593-613)	11/20 Does evil proof God's non-existence: Videos
	11/25 Community Project due (Essay #3) and discussion of projects	11/27 Holiday
	12/2 Review	12/4 Review
	12/9	12/11 Final Exam: 10:30-12:30

