

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2018	COURSE NO: PHIL 117	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Philosophy of Religion	
OFFICE: E-MAIL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time per week, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

None.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Are there any good reasons for believing in God? Is there a conflict between faith and reason? What is fundamentalism? Is spirituality important for human flourishing? This course begins by examining the major arguments for theism. These include the teleological argument, the cosmological argument, the ontological argument, the argument from religious experience, the moral argument, and the cumulative case argument. The arguments are flawed, but they help us understand religious attitudes towards the limits of human knowledge, the nature of reality, the nature of persons, the objectivity of moral values, and questions such as why there is something rather than nothing. Arguments for atheism are also examined, including the problem of evil and reductive accounts of religious belief. The popular views of Richard Dawkins and other neo-atheists are introduced, as well as the claim that these writers fail to distinguish between informed religiosity and uninformed fundamentalism. In addition, the voluntarism of William James and the reformed epistemology of Alvin Plantinga are considered. These non-evidentialist positions are contrasted with the evidentialism of theists such as Richard Swinburne and atheists such as John Mackie. Finally, the possibility of religion without metaphysics is explored. The course is relevant to all, with or without religious faith. The emphasis of the course varies from instructor to instructor.

COURSE NOTE:

PHIL 117 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES:

Peterson, M., Hasker, W., Reichenbach, B., et al. *Reason and Religious Belief*. 5th ed., Oxford, 2013.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Explain the key religious concepts
- Explain the major theories and themes in the philosophy of religion.
- Critically discuss philosophical questions relating to religious issues.
- Critically discuss often uncritically accepted assumptions, including the students' own values or beliefs.

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
- Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

COURSE CONTENT:

	Topic	Readings: From the textbook or online, as noted
Week 1	Introduction to the course: What is "religion"?	Ch. 1: Thinking about God
Week 2	Metaphysics and Religion: Making sense of religious beliefs	Ch. 2: What are Religious Beliefs About? Online: Dennett
Week 3	Meaning and Religion: Making sense of religious language	Ch. 12: Religious Language Online: Trigg
Week 4	Religious Experience	Ch. 3: Religious Experience Online: James, Alston
Week 5	Faith, Reason, and Religious Epistemology	Ch. 4: Faith and reason; Ch. 6: Knowing God Without Arguments Online: Plantinga, Pargetter
Week 6	Divine Attributes	Ch. 7: The Divine Attributes; Ch. 8: Divine Action, pp.161-163, 167-174. Online: Mavrodes, Pike
Week 7	The Ontological Argument	Ch. 5: Theistic Arguments, pp.79-85 Online: Anselm, Gaunilo
Week 8	Cosmological Arguments	Ch. 5: Theistic Arguments, pp.85-93. Online: Aquinas, Reichenbach
Week 9	Teleological Arguments	Ch. 5: Theistic Arguments, pp.93-101

		Online: Paley, Betty & Cordell
Week 10	Pragmatic arguments for belief	Online: Pascal, James
Week 11	The Problem of Evil	Ch. 9: The Problem of Evil Online: Mackie, Plantinga, Rowe
Week 12	God and Morality	Ch. 15: Religious Ethics Online: Plato's <i>Euthyphro</i> , Aquinas
Week 13	Religion and Science	Ch. 13: Religion and Science
Week 14 & 15	Final Exam Period	

EVALUATION PROFILE:

In-class participation	10%
Tests	20% - 40%
Essay(s)	20% - 40%
Final Exam	20% - 30%
Total	100%

The participation mark is determined by attendance and appropriate participation in in-class activities. No single evaluation component will be worth more than 35%.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date specified by the instructor. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, consult with your instructor beforehand. Late assignments are penalized 5% per day or part of a day that they are late.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <http://www.capilanou.ca/services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy S2017-05 for more information: <http://www.capilanou.ca/about/governance/policies/Policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;

- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including [B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy](#) and [B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure](#).

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.