ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

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<th>Division</th>
<th>HUMANITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
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<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Guy Crain</td>
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<td>Hours Per Week:</td>
<td>Class 3, Lab 0</td>
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Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

The focus of this course is the application of philosophy to religious world-views. Topics covered may include the following: arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil, the rationality of religious belief, religious experience, atheism, religious exclusivism versus pluralism, paradoxical attributes of God, non-traditional/non-Western conceptions of God and religion. Prerequisite: ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment.

Prerequisites

ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment

Text(s):

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>All course readings are provided electronically</th>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
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Supplemental Materials:

(Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale:
Religion is pervasive throughout human society. Religious institutions, doctrines, adherents, and rationales are virtually impossible to avoid even locally, let alone globally. In order to engage, participate in, and cooperate with local or global culture responsibly and productively, a foundation of knowledge of religions and religious issues and the ability to apply critical reasoning skills in the sphere of religion are imperative.

Expected Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize complex arguments concerning issues in the philosophy of religion.
2. Identify specific examples of general concepts in the philosophy of religion.
3. Recall the positions held by individual philosophers and religious traditions.
4. Evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of objections to arguments in the philosophy of religion.
5. Differentiate between finely distinct concepts, arguments, and positions in the philosophy of religion.
6. Represent accurately positions and arguments in the philosophy of religion which differ from their own.

Methods of Instruction:
Lecture
Discussion
Internet or Computer-based Instruction
Inquiry Approach
Research

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):
Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of course content by way of examinations, quizzes, written assignments, presentations or projects.

Suggested:

30% Written Summary Assignments
30% Unit Examinations
40% Multi-part Presentation Project

Learning Objectives:
Suggested Units:

UNIT 1: ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
Students will be introduced to classic arguments for the existence of God including but not limited to the cosmological, ontological, and teleological arguments as well as classic objections to each.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define at least 10 important philosophical terms related to classic arguments for the existence of God.
2. Recognize at least 2 specific examples of important general concepts related to classic arguments for the existence of God.
3. Recall at least 5 philosophers historically related to classic arguments for the existence of God.
4. Recognize at least 3 common language examples of positions, arguments, and objections related to classic arguments for the existence of God.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of classic arguments for the existence of God.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of common objections to classic arguments for the existence of God.

UNIT 2: THE PROBLEM OF EVIL (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
Students will be introduced to the logical and evidential problems of evil as well as classic responses to each such as the free will defense and the soul-making theodicy.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define at least 10 important philosophical terms related to the problem of evil.
2. Recognize at least 2 specific examples of important general concepts related to the problem of evil.
3. Recall at least 5 philosophers historically related to the problem of evil.
4. Recognize at least 3 common language examples of positions, arguments, and objections related to the problem of evil.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the problem of evil.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of classic responses to the problem of evil.

UNIT 3: RATIONALITY OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
Students will be introduced to defenses and criticisms of the rationality of religious beliefs including but not limited to Pascal's wager, fideism, and naturalistic explanations of the origins of religious belief.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define at least 10 important philosophical terms related to the rationality of religious belief.
2. Recognize at least 2 specific examples of important general concepts related to the rationality of religious belief.
3. Recall at least 5 philosophers historically related to the rationality of religious belief.
4. Recognize at least 3 common language examples of positions, arguments, and
objections related to the rationality of religious belief.

5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of arguments for and against the rationality of religious belief.

UNIT 4: SCIENCE AND RELIGION (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)
Students will be introduced to various positions and arguments concerning the proper relationship between science and religion or between scientific and religious claims.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define at least 10 important philosophical terms concerning the relationship between science and religion.
2. Recognize at least 2 specific examples of important general concepts concerning the relationship between science and religion.
3. Recall at least 5 philosophers historically related the issue of science and religion.
4. Recognize at least 3 common language examples of positions, arguments, and objections concerning the relationship between science and religion.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of positions and arguments concerning the relationship between science and religion.

UNIT 5: POT-POURRI (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7)
Students will be introduced to an assortment of issues in the philosophy of religion similar to the following: death and the afterlife, religious pluralism vs. religious exclusivism, the relationship between religion and ethics, and miracles. Upon completion of this unit, students will give presentations on a topic of their choosing involving the explanation of an issue, the presentation of an argument related to that issue as well as objections to that argument, and an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the argument and objections.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define at least 10 important philosophical terms related to a variety of issues in the philosophy of religion.
2. Recognize at least 2 specific examples of important general concepts related to a variety of issues in the philosophy of religion.
3. Recall at least 5 philosophers historically related to a variety of issues in the philosophy of religion.
4. Recognize at least 3 common language examples of positions, arguments, and objections related to a variety of issues in the philosophy of religion.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of arguments concerning a variety of issues in the philosophy of religion.