

ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COURSE OUTLINE

DIVISION: Humanities, Fine Arts and Social Sciences

COURSE: PHL 1003 (Philosophy of Religion)

Date: 12/17/2012

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite(s): none

Delivery Method: Lecture 0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
 Seminar 0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
 Lab 0 Contact Hours (2 contact = 1 credit hour)
 Clinical 0 Contact Hours (3 contact = 1 credit hour)
 Online
 Blended

Offered: Fall Spring Summer

IAI Equivalent – **Only for Transfer Courses**–go to <http://www.itransfer.org>: H4905

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A rational examination of the nature and content of religious belief through an examination of such issues as the relation of reason to faith, the existence and nature of God, religious experience, and the occurrence of evil.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS ADDRESSED

[See the last page of this form for more information.]

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able:

[Choose those goals that apply to this course.]

- To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social and professional issues and situations.
- To communicate orally and in writing, socially and interpersonally.
- To develop an awareness of the contributions made to civilization by the diverse cultures of the world.
- To understand and use contemporary technology effectively and to

- understand its impact on the individual and society.
- To work and study effectively both individually and in collaboration with others.
- To understand what it means to act ethically and responsibly as an individual in one's career and as a member of society.
- To develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- To appreciate the ongoing values of learning, self-improvement, and career planning.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:

[Outcomes related to course specific goals.]

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

The end goal of the course is to foster deeper and more critical thinking about the nature and content of religious beliefs. By the end of the course, students will (1) have a deeper understanding of the complexities of the issues addressed in class, (2) be able to identify multiple positions on these issues, recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, (3) appreciate the impact our presuppositions have on evaluating the truth of religious beliefs, and (4) be developing critical thinking skills and applying them to the evaluation of religious beliefs.

COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

Nature of Religion
 Concepts of the Divine
 Concepts of Faith
 The Relationship between Faith and the Search for Evidence (Religious Epistemology)
 The Relationship between Religion and Science
 Rational Arguments for the Existence of God
 Understanding Miracles and Religious Experience
 Religious Diversity
 The Challenges of Evil to Religious Thought
 Atheist Challenges to Faith and Religious Morality

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Course lecture and discussion
 Occasional use of A/V material for discussion
 Written assessments

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Michael Peterson et al; Reason and Religious Belief and Philosophy of Religion
 Sam Harris; Letter to a Christian Nation
 Several essays on reserve at library
 Occasional A/V material

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Reading quizzes to check for completion and comprehension of assigned reading material
Written assignments for each topic to demonstrate understanding of different views and ability to assess those views

OTHER REFERENCES

Marilyn Adams; Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God
Woody Allen, dir.; Love and Death; Manhattan; September
Woody Allen; Without Feathers
William P. Alston; Perceiving God
Timothy Anders; The Evolution of Evil
St. Anselm; Monologium
St. Thomas Aquinas; Summa Theologica
St. Augustine; Confessions
Michael Behe; Darwin's Black Box
Gregory Boyd; God at War; God of the Possible; Is God to Blame?
Martin Buber; I and Thou; Two Types of Faith
Claudia Card; The Atrocity Paradigm
Larry Charles & Bill Maher, dirs.; Religulous
John B. Cobb & David Ray Griffin; Process Theology
William Lane Craig & Quentin Smith; Theism, Atheism, and Big Bang Cosmology
Dalai Lama XIV; Toward a True Kinship of Faiths
Charles Darwin; On the Origin of Species
Richard Dawkins; The Blind Watchmaker; The God Delusion
Daniel Dennett; Darwin's Dangerous Idea
Theodore M. Drange; Nonbelief and Evil
Stephen Jay Gould; The Panda's Thumb; Rocks of Ages
Norwood Russell Hanson; "What I Don't Believe"
Sam Harris; The End of Faith
Abraham Joshua Heschel; God in Search of Man
John Hick; An Interpretation of Religion; Evil and the God of Love; Faith and Knowledge; God Has Many Names
David Hume; Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion; The Natural History of Religion
William James; The Variety of Religious Experience
John Paul II; "Faith, Science and the Galileo Case"
Sharon M. Kaye, ed.; The Onion and Philosophy
Soren Kierkegaard; Attack Upon "Christendom"; Concluding Unscientific Postscript
Claude Lanzmann, dir.; Shoah
J. L. Mackie; The Miracle of Theism
Kenneth R. Miller; Finding Darwin's God
Monty Python (acting troupe); The Life of Brian
James Morrow; Blameless in Abaddon
Paul K. Moser; The Elusive God; Why Isn't God More Obvious?
The Onion www.theonion.com
Rudolf Otto; The Idea of the Holy
Keith Parsons; God and the Burden of Proof
Blaise Pascal; Pensees
Terence Penelhum; Reason and Religious Faith
Michael L. Peterson; God and Evil

Nelson Pike; God and Timeslessness
Clark Pinnock et al; The Openness of God
Alvin Plantinga; God and Other Minds; God, Freedom, and Evil; Warranted Christian Belief
John Polkinghorne; Faith, Science, and Understanding
Steven Prothero; God is Not One
Wayne Proudfoot; Religious Experience
Pseudo-Dionysius; The Divine Names
Alain Resnais, dir.; Night and Fog
William L. Rowe; The Cosmological Argument
J. L. Schellenberg; Divine Hiddenness and Human Reason; The Wisdom to Doubt
Gerald L. Schroeder; The Science of God
Richard Swinburne; The Coherence of Theism; The Concept of Miracle; The Existence of God; Faith and Reason
Paul Tillich; Dynamics of Faith
Upanishads
Voltaire; Candide
Elie Wiesel; Night

Course Competency/Assessment Methods Matrix

Course Prefix, Number and Name	Assessment Options																																			
For each competency/outcome place an "X" below the method of assessment to be used.	Assessment of Student Learning	Article Review	Case Studies	Group Projects	Lab Work	Oral Presentations	Pre-Post Tests	Quizzes	Written Exams	Artifact Self Reflection of Growth	Capstone Projects	Comprehensive Written Exit Exam	Course Embedded Questions	Multi-Media Projects	Observation	Writing Samples	Portfolio Evaluation	Real World Projects	Reflective Journals	Applied Application (skills) Test	Oral Exit Interviews	Accreditation Reviews/Reports	Advisory Council Feedback	Employer Surveys	Graduate Surveys	Internship/Practicum /Site Supervisor Evaluation	Licensing Exam	In Class Feedback	Simulation	Interview	Written Report	Assignment				
Assessment Measures – Are direct or indirect as indicated. List competencies/outcomes below.	Direct/ Indirect	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	D	D											
Understanding complexities of issues							X																				X					X				
Understanding of diverse views							X																				X					X				
Rationally evaluate competing views												X															X					X				
Appreciate impact of our presuppositions													X														X					X				