

# PHIL-2000: THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: PHIL-2000 : The Philosophy of Religion**

**Board of Trustees:**

June 2023

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2023

**Subject Code**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Course Number:**

2000

**Title:**

The Philosophy of Religion

**Catalog Description:**

Provides an overview of the principal debates in philosophy of religion. Study of selected topics and problems in the philosophy of religion, such as: arguments for the existence of God; the problem of evil; atheism; faith & reason; religious experience and revelation; the attributes of God; miracles; and the relation between religion and morality. Readings from historical and contemporary authors.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

**Lab Hour(s):**

0

**Other Hour(s):**

0

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1010 College Composition I, or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I; or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Explain the basic concepts and central problems of the philosophy of religion and the corresponding views of various philosophers.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

- a. Discuss the main philosophical debates in contemporary philosophy regarding the nature of and existence of God in the Abrahamic religions and the rationality of religious belief.
  - b. Articulate several philosophical theories taking a position in the debates over the issues mentioned above.
  - c. Evaluate an argument by a philosopher of religion (as valid, or sound), providing appropriate grounds.
  - d. Identify and use relevant evidence to provide reasons for and against the adoption of various theories about religious belief, its content and rationality, and then evaluate the tenability of those theories.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Develop the fundamental philosophical skills of critical reading, thinking, and writing, and apply these skills within the field of the philosophy of religion.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

**Objective(s):**

- a. Analyze texts from contemporary and historical philosophers of religion, and extract the relevant arguments from them, and expound those arguments both in written form and in oral presentations (individual and/or group).
  - b. Present a sustained argumentative case in written form for or against particular theories about the nature of God and religious belief, addressing potential counterarguments and objections.
  - c. Present knowledge obtained in peer interaction in a concise and accurate fashion, in large and small group contexts.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

- a. Essay discussion questions and substantive writing assignments
- b. Minimum of two examinations
- c. Midpoint quizzes
- d. Research the history of a debate in the philosophy of religion
- e. Participation in reflective class discussion and oral presentations
- f. Present a reflective synopsis of an arguments about principal topic
- g. Engaging critical thought through analytic questioning of ideas

**Course Content Outline:**

- a. The philosophy of religion: what is it and why study it?
  - i. Distinction between the history, anthropology, and philosophy of religion
  - ii. Major concepts in religion.
  - iii. Study of philosophy of religion versus religious studies/theology
  - iv. What isn't religion?
  - v. Philosophical religious practices
- b. The concept of a deity
  - i. Theism, atheism, agnosticism
  - ii. Monotheism, polytheism, pantheism, deism
  - iii. Attributes: omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence
- c. Arguments for the existence of God
  - i. Ontological arguments
  - ii. Teleological arguments
  - iii. Cosmological arguments
- d. Reason and religious belief
  - i. The nature of faith
  - ii. Reason and justified religious belief
  - iii. Pragmatic justifications for religious belief
  - iv. Science, epistemology, and religious belief

**Resources**

Black Brain and Laurie Patton. *Dialogue in early South Asian Religions: Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions*. 1st ed. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2015.

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Fisher, Mary Pat. *Living Religions*. 2nd ed. Prentice-Hall, 1994.

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Walsh, Roger. *The World's Great Wisdom: Timeless Teachings from Religions and Philosophies*. 1st ed. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2014.

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Cahn, Steven. *Reason and Religions: Philosophy Looks at the World's Religious Beliefs*. 1st ed. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

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Oxtoby, Willard G., Roy C. Amore, Amir Hussain and Alan F. Segal. *A Concise Introduction to World Religions*. 4th ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

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Schilbrack, . *Philosophy and the Study of Religions: A Manifesto*. First. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2015.

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Clayton, John Powell. *Religions, Reasons and Gods: Essays in Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion*. 1st ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.

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Stephen Prothero. *Religion Matters: An Introduction to World Religions*. One. New York, New York W.W. Norton and Company, 2020. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

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Michael Molloy. *Experiencing the World's Religions: Tradition, Challenge, and Change*. 8th ed. McGraw-Hill, New York, 2021. <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/9781260813760>

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Robert E. Van Voorst. *Introduction to World Religions*. 4th ed. Cengage Boston, MA, 2018.

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## Resources Other

### Sacred Text Archive

Buddhism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/>)

Christianity (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/>)

Confucianism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/cfu/>)

Jainism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/jai/>)

Judaism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/>)

Hinduism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/hin/>)

Islam (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/isl/>)

Mormonism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/mor/>)

Paganism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/pag/>)

Shinto (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/>)

Sikhism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/skh/>)

Taoism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/>)

Zoroastrianism (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/zor/>)

<https://www.sacred-texts.com/index.htm> (<https://www.sacred-texts.com/>)

Torin Alter and Robert J. Howell, *The God Dialogues*. 1st ed. (Oxford) 2010

Steven Cahn, *Reason and Religions* 1st ed. (Cengage) 2013

William Lane Craig, *Philosophy of Religion: A Reader and Guide* 1st ed.(Rutgers) 2001

Brian Davies, *Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology* 1st ed. (Oxford) 2000

Paul Helm, *Faith and Reason* (Oxford) 2000

Chad Meister (editor), *Philosophy of Religion Reader* 1st ed. (Routledge) 2007

J. P. Moreland and Kai Nielsen, *Does God Exist?* 3rd ed. (Prometheus) 1993

Michael Peterson, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, and David Basinger, *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings* 5th ed. (Oxford) 2014

Alvin Plantinga, *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism* 1st ed. (Oxford) 2017

Michael Rea and Louis Pojman, *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology* 7th ed. (Cengage) 2014

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