**PHIL 1050—Faith and Reason**

**Spring 2019**

**Tues/Thurs 12:15-1:30**

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:30 or By Appointment

**Course Description**

This course is an exploration of the issues at the intersection of philosophy and religion. We will consider the concepts of religion and God, focusing primarily on Anslem’s notion of God as the being “than which nothing greater can be thought.” We will examine the relationship between faith and reason, classical arguments for God’s existence, the Problem of Evil, and other topics in philosophy of religion to be determined by the students.

**Course Objectives**

1. To become familiar with traditional arguments in the philosophy of religion.
2. To use basic philosophical methodology to analyze religious issues.
3. To clearly and precisely articulate your philosophical position on religious issues.
4. To profitably and charitably discuss controversial issues with those with whom you disagree.

**Text**

* *Exploring Philosophy of Religion: An Introductory Anthology,* ISBN: 978-0-19-046138-6
* Other readings will be made available on Canvas.

**Basis for Grading**

#### Study Questions = 20 points

Position Paper 1 = 20 points

Position Paper 2 = 20 points

Midterm Exam = 20 points

Final Exam = 20 points

**Course Requirements**

* + - *Study Questions (20 points)*: You will have a reading assignment for each week of approximately 10-20 pages (some weeks less!). In my experience, it takes novice and expert philosophers alike 1-1 ½ hours to carefully read 10 pages of high quality philosophical writing. After you have carefully read the assignment, you will answer a few study questions. I will post the study questions on Canvas. You will turn in your work on Canvas by the beginning of class on Tuesdays. Your responses should reveal that you have made a significant attempt to understand the reading. **All full credit study question responses will include citations from your assigned readings.** I will grade your answers on the following scale:

0 = You did not complete the assignment.

1 = You completed the assignment but gave very little evidence of having carefully done the readings.

2 = You completed the assignment and gave good evidence of having carefully done the readings including citations from your assigned readings.

Over the course of the semester, there will be 13 sets of study questions. Each will be worth 2 points. I will drop your lowest three study question scores at the end of the semester. Thus, if you miss one or two or three weeks, your study questions grade will not suffer.

* *Position Papers (20 points each):* You will write two position papers (about 3 pages in length) over the course of the semester. You will write your position papers on specific questions that I give you using your readings as resources. For each paper, you will have two different topics (with different due dates) from which to choose. In the third week of class, we will discuss how to write a position paper in more detail. I will pass out a rubric and sample papers at that time.

All position papers must be submitted by the due date. You will lose one point for every day that your paper is late. If your paper is submitted after class on the due date, you will lose ½ point.

* + - *Midterm and Final Exams (20 points each):* The midterm exam will include questions from the first half of the course drawn from our class sessions and the assigned readings. The final exam will cover the second half of the course. Prior to the exams, I will discuss the nature of the exams more specifically and hand out a review sheet.
		- *Attendance:* You are expected to attend every class session and be prepared to engage in the classroom discussion. I realize that you may sometimes miss class for reasons beyond your control. Therefore, there will be no penalty for the first four missed classes. Every absence beyond four will result in a 1.5 point reduction in your final grade. If you miss more than 10 classes, you will automatically receive an F in the course.

**Class Policy**

*Late Policy:* The study questions must be submitted to me on Canvas by the beginning of class on Tuesday. I do not accept late study questions. Position papers must be turned in on the scheduled due dates. See section on position papers for discussion of late penalties. Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates.

*Technology in the Classroom*: The bulk of our class time will be spent in large group discussion. This will require your active participation. To facilitate this, laptop computers, I pads, etc. will not be permitted in the classroom. The only exception to this is if your textbook is on an e-reader. I also ask that you turn your phones off when class begins and store them in a backpack or purse where they are out of sight.

*Academic Honesty:* All written assignments are to be completed individually; students are in no way to work in a collaborative manner on papers unless explicitly given permission to do so. Any ideas that appear in your work that were obtained from an outside source must acknowledge that source. Note that academic dishonesty is a serious offense; any student caught plagiarizing parts or all of a paper or purchasing a paper from another source will receive an F in the course.

*Classroom Conduct:* Classroom disruptions negatively affect the learning environment. “Disruption,” as applied to the academic setting, means verbal and other behavior in the classroom that a faculty member judges as interfering with normal academic functions. Disruptive behavior will be handled according to the university policy. For more information, go to the UCCS Dean of Students webpage under the tab *Student Conduct*.