

Introduction to Philosophy: God, Science, and Human Nature

Baylor University

MEETING

INFORMATION

Instructor: Alli Krile Thornton
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Philosophy 1321.01
MWF 10:10-11:00am
MH 106

GRADING

60 Points **3 Exams**

10 questions each exam; 2 points for each question.

Not cumulative; short answer questions on the preceding part of semester.

Exam dates are on the schedule below.

25 Points **1 Paper**

12.5 points for the draft; 12.5 points for the final paper.

This is a thesis-defense paper with a clear and concise argument.

We will go over how to write such a paper in class; you would do well not to miss that class period. Date is on the schedule.

1000 max words for each draft.

You get an automatic 0/100 if you plagiarize or turn your draft in late.

15 Points **9 Unannounced Quizzes**

5 questions each quiz; .5 point for each question; I'll drop your lowest 3 scores.

Short answer questions covering that day's readings and/or last class.

Given at the beginning of class, picked up 10 minutes later.

You cannot make up a quiz for any reason; but I will drop your 3 lowest scores.

+/- **Participation**

If you participate in class discussion, your final grade will be adjusted by up to 1% at the end of the term.

POLICIES

Honor code: Each student is expected to read, understand, and abide by the university's [honor code](#).

Technology: Cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. must be kept out of sight and out of use during class. If you require accommodations that require such technology, please talk to me about it.

Accommodations: If you have a condition that interferes with your ability to participate in this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please contact the [Office of Access and Learning Accommodation](#).

TEXTS

Richard Swinburne, *Is There a God? Revised Edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010). ISBN: 9780199580439.

Daniel C. Dennett and Alvin Plantinga, *Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN: 0199738424

SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Reading	Exams, etc.
8/22	Intro	---	
8/24	Philosophy and Science	---	
8/26	Philosophy and Science	Vicens, "What is Philosophy of Religion?"	
8/29	Philosophy and Science	Ayer, "Critique of Ethics and Theology" from <i>Language, Truth, and Logic</i>. pp. 72-76.	
8/31	How to Read Philosophy	---	
Arguments about the Existence of God			
9/2	Deductive Arguments	---	
9/5	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	---	
9/7	A Cosmological Argument	Craig, "The Existence of God and the Beginning of the Universe"	
9/9	NO CLASS	---	
9/12	A Cosmological Argument	---	
9/14	A Cosmological Argument	Le Poidevin "Must the Universe Have a Cause" from <i>Arguing for Atheism</i>. pp. 3-15	
9/16	On Inductive Arguments	Swinburne, Chapters 1-2 from <i>Is There a God?</i> : pp. 5-34	
9/19	A Fine-tuning Argument	Swinburne, Chapters 3-4 from <i>Is There a God?</i> : pp. 35-62	
9/21	A Fine-tuning Argument	---	
9/23	The Problem of Evil	Rowe, "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism"	
9/26	The Problem of Evil	Swinburne, Chapter 6 from <i>Is There a God?</i> : pp.84-99	
9/28	Review	---	
9/30	<i>Exam #1</i>	---	<i>Exam #1</i>
Evolution and Theism			
10/3	Evolution and Creation	Collins, (the first part of) "Genesis, Galileo, and Darwin" from <i>The Language of God</i>: pp. 145-153.	
		van Inwagen, "Darwinism and Design" from <i>Science and Religion in Dialogue</i> ed. Stewart: pp. 825-834	
10/5	Evolution and Creation	Dennett & Plantinga, Chapter 1 from <i>Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?</i> : pp. 1-21	
10/7	Evolution and Creation	---	
10/10	Evolution and Creation	Dennett & Plantinga, Chapters 2-3 from <i>Science and Religion: Are they Compatible?</i> : pp. 25-44	
10/12	Evolution and the <i>Imago Dei</i>	---	
10/14	Evolution and the Fall	Lewis, Chapter 5 from <i>The Problem of Pain</i>	
10/17	Evolutionary Arg. against Naturalism	Lewis, Chapter 3 from <i>Miracles</i>	
10/19	Evolutionary Arg. against Naturalism	---	

10/21	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	---
10/24	Evolutionary Arg. against Naturalism	---
10/26	Review	---
10/28	<i>Exam #2</i>	---

Exam #2

Human Beings, Death, and the Afterlife

10/31	Paper Writing Workshop	---
11/2	Human Nature	Watch Kagan's "The Nature of Persons: Dualism vs. Physicalism"
11/4	Dualism	Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> 72e-77b
11/7	Dualism	---
11/9	Hylomorphism	Aquinas, Question 75, Articles 2 and 4
11/11	Materialism	Morris, "The Case for Materialism" from <i>Philosophy for Dummies</i>: 163-174
11/14	Materialism and the Afterlife	van Inwagen, "I Look for the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life of the World to Come"

Free Will

11/16	Materialism and the Afterlife cont.	---
11/18	Scientific Determinism	Watch this .
11/21	Compatibilism	Watch this and read Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"
11/23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	---
11/25	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	---
11/28	Incompatibilism <i>First draft of paper due by 11:59 pm</i>	---
11/30	Theological Determinism	---
12/2	tbd	tbd
12/5	Review	---
12/8	<i>Final Exam (Exam #3) 2:00-4:00 pm</i> <i>Final draft of paper due by 4:00 pm</i>	---

1st Draft

Exam #3

Final Draft

Note that the syllabus is subject to change. You will always be given advance notice if readings will be added or subtracted or if there will be any alteration in due dates or assignments.