

PHIL 2601 / RELI 2738**Philosophy of Religion**

Carleton University
Fall Term 2014

Course Instructor: Dr. Suzanne McCullagh

Office: 329B Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 4:00 – 5:00 pm or by appointment

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Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 2:30 - 4pm, Southam Hall 416

Calendar Description:

A philosophical examination of some characteristic concepts of religion, such as faith, hope, worship, revelation, miracle, God.

Specific Description:

This course explores core questions in the philosophy of religion in four thematic areas. *Metaphysics:* What is the first cause or source of what is? (Aristotle) What is genesis and how can we conceive of the relationship between a creator and the created? (Augustine) What kind of being is God? (Aquinas, Avicenna, Spinoza, Leibniz) Why is there something rather than nothing? (Leibniz) *Epistemology:* What can we know of God and the world? (Hume) *Ethics and Morality:* What is the highest good? (Kant) What is religious faith and how is it related to ethics? (Kierkegaard) *Atheism, Science, and the Public, Political Sphere:* Can we have ethical values without religion? (Feuerbach and Nietzsche) Is scientific knowledge compatible with religious belief? (Russell, Gould, Miller) Does a secular social and political sphere enhance or diminish democratic pluralism? (Connolly).

Required Texts:

1. Kierkegaard, Søren. *Fear and Trembling*. Translated by Alistair Hannay. Penguin Classics, 1986.
2. Additional material will be available on CuLearn through MacOdrum Library electronic reserves.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyse contemporary and historical tensions between faith and reason, divine omnipotence and the existence of suffering, and science and religion.
- Explain arguments for the existence of God, the human inability to know God, and the role of religious faith in ethical and political life.
- Recognize and develop interpretations of conceptual differences between the thinkers explored in this course.
- Develop critical writing, thinking, and speaking skills.

Reading Schedule:

Week	Readings
1 M Sept. 8 W Sept. 10	Course Introduction John Hick, "Doing Philosophy of Religion"
I METAPHYSICS	
2 M Sept. 15 W Sept. 17	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics Book XII</i>
3 M Sept. 22 W Sept. 24	Saint Augustine, <i>The Confessions, Book XII</i>
4 M Sept. 29 W Oct. 1st	Saint Thomas Aquinas, <i>Nature and Grace: Selections from the Summa Theologica</i> , Ibn-Sīnā/Avicenna – TBD
5 M Oct. 6 W Oct. 8	Benedict Spinoza, Selections from <i>Ethics and Political Treatise</i> Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, "Principles of Nature and Grace"
6 M Oct. 13 W Oct. 15	<i>Thanksgiving – UNIVERSITY CLOSED</i> David Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>
7 M Oct. 20 W Oct. 22	David Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> <i>MIDTERM</i>
Oct. 27 - 31	<i>NO CLASSES - READING WEEK</i>
III ETHICS AND MORALITY	
8 M Nov. 3 W Nov. 5	Immanuel Kant, "Of the Concept of an Object of Pure Practical Reason," <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
9 M Nov. 10 W Nov. 12	Soren Kierkegaard, <i>Fear and Trembling</i>
10 M Nov. 17 W Nov. 19	Soren Kierkegaard, <i>Fear and Trembling</i>
IV ATHEISM, SCIENCE, AND THE PUBLIC POLITICAL SPHERE	
11 M Nov. 24 W Nov. 26	Ludwig Feuerbach, "The Being of Man in General," <i>The Essence of Christianity</i> Friedrich Nietzsche, "What do Aesthetic Ideals Mean?" <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , "The Madman," How the True World Finally Became a Fable

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M Dec. 1	Bertrand Russell, "Why I am Not a Christian" and Stephen Jay Gould, "Non-Overlapping <i>Magesteria</i> "
W Dec. 3	Adam Miller, "Metaphorical Reference and the Existence of God," <i>Horizons</i> 32: 2005.
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M. Dec. 8	William Connolly, "The Conceits of Secularism," <i>Why I am not a Secularist</i>

Philosophy and Writing:

Developing good writing skills is very important because in philosophy you need to be able to express ideas clearly and to make well-structured arguments. Here are some options for improving your writing skills:

1. ***I strongly encourage*** you to bring a draft of your paper to me during my office hours to get my feedback and advice. (You should do this at least a week in advance of the due date for it to be helpful.) Or, bring a copy of a paper that has already been graded to get a sense of how you can improve your writing for your next assignment.
2. **Writing Assistance** – Book an appointment with a Writing Tutorial Service: <http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/appointments/>
3. **Online Writing Resources** – The Student Academic Success Centre provides a number of writing tips and strategy documents that can help you to understand what good writing is and what to do to make your writing better: <http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/peer-assisted-study-sessions/workshop-handouts/week-ten/writing-resources/>

Student Responsibilities:

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

No late assignments will be accepted (and no missed exams can be made up) unless you have made arrangements with me one week in advance of an assignment due date or a scheduled exam. In the case of exceptional circumstances you are required to provide documentation when you submit your assignment. If you make arrangements to hand in your assignment late, you may not receive comments on it.

Keep backup copies of your work in an online account, memory key, external drive, etc. Everyone knows that it is easy for a computer to crash and for one's work to be lost, so take appropriate precautions and develop good backup practices. Lost work due to computer malfunction is not a good excuse for a late assignment.

Coming to Class:

- ***Attendance in class is mandatory*** and you are responsible for learning the lecture material as well as all the assigned reading.
- ***Bring the assigned reading to class.*** Frequently we will work with the text in class during group discussions, you will need to have it with you or this can't work.
- ***The use of laptops in class is discouraged***, but permitted. It is more beneficial for your learning to pay close attention to the nuances of the discussion, rather than to capture all the content in your notes. You will do far better in philosophy if you try to improve your understanding of the ideas and arguments, rather than remembering all of the content

mentioned during a lecture. In your assignments and on tests you will be asked to explain, in your own words, the meaning of ideas and arguments, so memorization won't help you.

- ***No internet use, videos, computer games, or cell phone use.*** All these things are distracting to others in the class and detract from the kind of work that we can do collectively if when we are all paying attention and listening to one another. If you are found doing any of these things you will be asked to leave.

Gender Neutral Language

When you are writing, keep in mind that the words "man," "he," and "his" are not gender neutral. Using these words implies to your reader that you are only referring to men. To make your writing inclusive, you can either use "humanity," "he and she," "his or her," or you can alternate between "he" and "she," or "his" and "her" throughout a single piece of work. For more information on how to develop gender neutral writing see:

Warren, Virginia L. "Guidelines for the Nonsexist Use of Language."

<http://www.apaonline.org/?page=nonsexist&hhSearchTerms=gender+and+neutral+and+language>

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam

requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735