

## PHILOSOPHY 1600 HONORS - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

**Section 880**  
**MWF 12:00-12:50**  
**Library M498**

**Professor Michael Tooley**  
**Office hours: MWF 11:00-11:45**  
**Hellems, Room 277**

### **Text**

*Philosophy of Religion*, 2nd edition, edited by Louis Pojman

In addition to the above anthology, you will also need to have access to a reliable and accurate version of the Bible - one that contains scholarly translations, rather than paraphrases, of the original texts - since three of the assignments, and two of the topics, involve some readings from the Bible.

Copies of the following additional readings will also be made available:

Walter Kaufmann, sections 57 and 58 of *The Faith of a Heretic* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1961).

Walter Kaufmann, sections 54-5 and 58-70 of *Critique of Religion and Philosophy* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958).

Andrew Dickson White, Chapter XIII, Section II, Growth of Legends of Healing – The Life of Xavier as a Typical Example, *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*, (New York: Appleton, 1896).

### **Course Work**

1. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions are crucial.
2. The written work for the course will consist of three exercises, two essays, and a three-hour final examination. (The weight assigned to each of these is indicated below.)

### **Exercises**

**Exercise 1:** The Infallibility of the Bible. (5%)

Due date: Monday, September 8

**Exercise 2:** Morality and the Bible. (5%)

Due date: Monday, September 15

**Exercise 3:** Jesus and the Gospel According to Matthew. (5%)

Due date: Monday, November 24

### **Essays**

**First Essay:** A 1000-1200 word essay on an assigned topic. (30%)

Due Date: Monday, October 13

**Second Essay:** A 1000-1200 word essay on an assigned topic. (30%)

Due Date: Monday, November 17

**Final Exam:** A 3 hour, closed book, essay exam will be held on Thursday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., in Norlin Library M498. (25%)

## **Topics and Required Readings**

### **1. Faith, Rationality, and the Ethics of Belief**

Louis Pojman, "Pragmatic Justification of Religious Belief", pages 418-20.

Blaise Pascal, "The Wager", pages 420-2.

W. K. Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief", pages 422-6.

William James, "The Will to Believe", pages 427-35.

### **2. Cosmological Arguments for the Existence of God**

Louis Pojman, "Traditional Arguments for the Existence of God", pages 2-3.

St. Thomas Aquinas, "The Five Ways", pages 4-6.

Samuel Clarke, "The Argument from Contingency", pages 6-7.

Paul Edwards, "A Critique of the Cosmological Argument", pages 7-16.

William Rowe, "An Examination of the Cosmological Argument", pages 16-25

Richard Taylor, "The Cosmological Argument: A Defense", pages 25-31.

### **3. The Argument from Design**

Louis Pojman, "The Teleological Argument for the Existence of God", pages 32-4.

William Paley, "The Watch and the Watchmaker", pages 34-36.

David Hume, "A Critique of the Design Argument", pages 37-43.

Richard Swinburne, "The Argument from Design", pages 43-53.

### **4. Are Proofs of the Existence of God Relevant to Religion?**

Louis Pojman, "The Relevance to Religion of the 'Proofs'", pages 79-80.

Steven M. Cahn, "The Irrelevance to Religion of Philosophic Proofs for the Existence of God", pages 80-3.

Stephen T. Davis, "What Good Are Theistic Proofs?", pages 84-92

Michael Scriven, "The Presumption of Atheism", pages 403-11.

### **5. Miracles and Revelation**

Louis Pojman, "Miracles and Revelation", pages 295-99.

David Hume, "Against Miracles", pages 300-9.

Richard Swinburne, "For the Possibility of Miracles", pages 309-15.

John Mackie, "Miracles and Testimony", pages 315-22.

Richard L. Purtill, "Miracles: What if They Happen?", pages 323-33.

Richard Swinburne, "Miracles and Revelation", pages 333-43.

*Genesis* chapters 1 through 8.

Louis Rose, *Faith Healing*, (Harmondsworth, England: Penguin Books, 1971).

Andrew Dickson White, *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom* (Gloucester, Massachusetts: Peter Smith, 1978), chapter 13, section 2. (The first edition was published in 1896.)

## **6. Religious Experience and the Existence of God**

Louis Pojman, "The Argument from Religious Experience", pages 95-101.

*Selections of Mystic Experiences*, pages 102-3.

William James, "Mysticism", pages 103-20.

C. D. Broad, "The Argument from Religious Experience", pages 120-7.

Wallace Matson, "Skepticism on Religious Experience", pages 127-38.

Gary Gutting, "A Modified Version of the Argument from Religious Experience", pages 138-48.

Louis Pojman, "A Critique of Gutting's Argument from Religious Experience", pages 148-53.

William P. Alston, "Religious Experience and Religious Belief", pages 154-60.

## **7. Atheism and the Argument from Evil**

Louis Pojman, "The Problem of Evil", pages 163-66.

David Hume, "The Argument from Evil", pages 167-72.

Gottfried Leibniz, "Theodicy: A Defense of Theism", pages 172-76.

John Hick, "Evil and Soul-Making", pages 177-81.

Edward H. Madden and Peter H. Hare, "A Critique of Hick's Theodicy", pages 181-5.

J. L. Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence", pages 185-193.

Alvin Plantinga, "The Free Will Defense", pages 193-212.

William Rowe, "The Inductive Argument from Evil Against the Existence of God", pages 212-18.

## **8. Death and Immortality**

Louis Pojman, "Death and Immortality", pages 345-51.

Plato, "Immortality of the Soul", pages 352-56.

David Hume, "Skepticism over Immortality of the Soul", pages 357-60.

Bertrand Russell, "The Finality of Death", pages 361-3. John Hick, "Immortality and Resurrection". pages 363-70.

Antony Flew, "Against Survival", pages 370-8.

Jeffrey Olen, "Personal Survival and Life after Death", pages 379-89.

Peter van Inwagen, "The Possibility of Resurrection". pages 389-92.

## 9. Religion and Ethics

Louis Pojman, "Religion and Ethics", pages 555-6.

Plato, "Morality and Religion", pages 557-8.

Patrick Nowell-Smith, "Morality: Religious and Secular", pages 558-69.

George Mavrodes, "Religion and the Queerness of Morality", pages 569-78.

Readings from the Bible: *Exodus*, chapters 20-3; *Leviticus*, chapters 18-20, *Deuteronomy*, chapters 21-2; *Matthew*, chapter 5, verses 27-32; chapter 15, verses 19-20; chapter 19, verses 3-12; *Mark*, chapter 10, verses 2-12; *Ephesians*, chapter 5, verses 21-33; *Romans*, chapter 1, verses 18-32.

## 10. Christianity

*The Gospel According to Matthew*

Walter Kaufmann, sections 57 and 58 of *The Faith of a Heretic* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1961).

Walter Kaufmann, sections 54-5 and 58-70 of *Critique of Religion and Philosophy* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1958).

Andrew Dickson White, Chapter XIII, Section II, Growth of Legends of Healing – The Life of Xavier as a Typical Example, *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*, (New York: Appleton, 1896).