

**Syllabus**  
**PHIL 347 001: *Philosophy of Religion* (Winter 2017, Term 1)**

**Lectures**

Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:00-12:00 in Frederic Lasserre, Room 104.

**Instructor**

Dr. Anders Kraal

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Office hours: TBA

**Teaching assistant** TBA

**Course description**

The course covers major issues in the philosophy of religion, including the cosmological, ontological and design arguments for the existence of God; the problem of evil; and the relation between religion and morality.

**Required text**

Brian Davies: *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

**Course requirements**

There will be two take-home assignments (each worth 15% of the final grade), two in-class exams (each worth 15% of the final grade), and a final exam (worth 40% of the final grade).

The take-home assignments will be announced on the course webpage on Sept 18 and Oct 6, and are to be handed in in class on Sept 25 and Oct 16, respectively. In each assignment you will be asked to write a 3-4 page text in response to one or more questions. Late assignments will be docked by 3 grade points per Calendar day; missed assignments will be assigned a grade point of 0.

The in-class exams will be on Oct 27 and Nov 17. In each exam you will be asked to provide answers to a few questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. Missed in-class exams will be assigned a grade point of 0.

The final exam will be held in December during UBC's final examinations period. Information about the exact date, time and location will be announced in due course. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

**Marking scale**

90-100%: A+	76-79%: B+	64-67%: C+	50-54%: D
85-89%: A	72-75%: B	60-63%: C	0-49%: F
80-84%: A-	68-71%: B-	55-59%: C-	

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts

and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

### **Tentative schedule with readings**

Week 1 (Sept 6, 8): Concepts of God Chapter 1, 8, 9

Week 2 (Sept 11-15): Cosmological arguments Chapter 3

Week 3 (Sept 18-22): Continued Chapter 3

*\*Sept 18: take-home assignment #1 posted (due in class on Sept 25)*

Week 4 (Sept 25-29): Design arguments Chapter 4

Week 5 (Oct 2-6): Ontological arguments Chapter 5

*\*Oct 6: take-home assignment #2 posted (due in class on Oct 16)*

Week 6 (Oct 11-13): Continued Chapter 5

Week 7 (Oct 16-20): The problem of evil Chapter 10

Week 8 (Oct 23-27): Continued Chapter 10

*\*Oct 27: In-class exam #1*

Week 9 (Oct 30; Nov 3): Religion and morality Chapter 12

Week 10 (Nov 6, 10): Religion and arguments Chapter 2

Week 11 (Nov 15-17): Religion and experience Chapter 6

*\*Nov 17: In-class exam #2*

Week 12 (Nov 20-24): Religion and language Chapter 7

Week 13 (Nov 27-Dec 1): Miracles and immortality Chapter 11, 13

*\*December: Final exam (exact date and location TBA)*