

TP2503: Philosophy of Religion – Dr. John Lee
Fri-Sat, 7/7-8, 7/14-15, 7/21-22; 9am-3pm; 3 credits
In Person

DESCRIPTION: Philosophy of Religion examines questions that arise in the intersection of faith and reason. These questions have arisen in the history of the church, and these questions continue to demand our attention in our contemporary setting. The particular questions shift from context to context depending on changing thought patterns and worldviews. Some longstanding questions still relevant in our time include: questions of God's existence, God's attributes, the authority of special revelation, the problem of suffering and evil, rationality of religious belief, and the challenge religious pluralism. We will examine these questions among others.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY: More than ever, questions of a philosophical nature are being asked by people new to the Christian faith and by people in the pews. Pastors and leaders need perspectives and resources to address these questions that people are struggling with. To explain the reason for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Pet. 3:15) requires us to reflect deeply and come to biblical, theological, and philosophical understanding that's helpful to others and ourselves.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Through the successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Understand the core questions, issues, and perspectives within philosophy of religion.
- Articulate for oneself and for one's community Christian responses to philosophically driven questions.
- Examine and write on a philosophical topic that engages one's concern or interest.
- SLO's: 1.1.2, 1.2.1-2, 1.4.1, 1.6.2, 2.1.2, 2.2.1-2, 2.4.1-2, 2.5.2, 3.4.1, 3.5.2

COURSE FORMAT: This course will on three consecutive Fri-Sat in July. Class time will be a combination of lecture and discussion. We will also continue our conversation via email or Zoom as needed on a weekly basis. Prior to the first meeting, reading assignments will be given.

REQUIRED READING:

Bayne, Tim, *Philosophy of Religion: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN 0198754965. Amazon \$11.95 [paperback]

Zagzebski, Linda, *Philosophy of Religion: An Historical Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2007. ISBN 1405118725, Amazon \$37.81 [paperback].

Zagzebski, Linda and Timothy Miller (eds.) *Readings in Philosophy of Religion: Ancient to Contemporary*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. ISBN 1405180919, Amazon \$44.27 [paperback]

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

- Attendance and class participation.
- Reading of required materials and weekly written reading response.
- A term paper (17-19 pages) focused on topic raised in philosophy of religion.

PREREQUISITES: Spiritual Formation and Introduction to Theological Studies

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: This course meets a core curriculum requirement for the MDiv and MTS degrees.

FINAL EXAMINATION: None.

Note: This extended course description is a reliable guide but is subject to modification. Textbook prices are set by publishers and are subject to change