

# Philosophy of Religion

PHL 238 – Spring 2010

Dr. Andrew Cullison

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**Office Hours:** MW 6-7, TR 2:30—3:30

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## Course Description

This course will explore some of the major issues in philosophy of religion. In this course we will examine several arguments for and against the existence of God. We'll examine the case for possibility of rationally believing in God without arguments for God's existence, and we will also apply the tools of philosophy to discuss some theological puzzles concerning life after death.

We will draw mostly from contemporary sources and emphasis will be placed on carefully extracting and evaluating arguments from those sources.

## Required Texts

Online Readings (Access via [www.andrewcullison.com/courses](http://www.andrewcullison.com/courses))

## Course Work

2 exams, 1 short paper, 1 research paper

## Important Dates

Paper One Due: February 23

Exam One: March 11

Research Paper Due: May 4

*Final Exam:* See <http://www.fredonia.edu/registrar/finalexam.asp>

## Grading

15% Weekly Blogging

20% Exam One

20% Exam Two

15% Short Paper

30% Final Research Paper

## Grading Scale

A	94-100	C+	77-79
A –	90-93	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82	F	59 – below

## Course Policies

<http://www.andrewcullison.com/courses/syllabuspolicies/>

I have a detailed list of course policies located at the above URL. Students who take this course are subject to all of these policies, and it is your responsibility to read these policies. They should be regarded as part of the course syllabus.

## Tentative Reading Schedule

**Week One: Methodology/The Nature of God**

**Week Two: The Nature of God/Design Arguments**

**Week Three: Design Arguments**

**Week Four: Design Arguments/Cosmological Arguments**

**Week Five: Cosmological Arguments**

**Week Six: Cosmological Arguments/Ontological Arguments**

**Week Seven: Exam Week**

**Week Eight: Spring Break**

**Week Nine: Rational Belief without Arguments: Religious Experience**

**Week Ten: More on Religious Epistemology**

**Week Eleven: The Problem of Evil**

**Week Twelve: The Problem of Evil**

**Week Thirteen: The Problem of Evil**

**Week Fourteen: Open\*\***

**Week Fourteen: Open\*\***

**Week Fifteen: Open\*\***

**Week Sixteen: Open\*\***

\*\* I reserve the last four weeks for some focused/higher level puzzle that I rotate from semester-to-semester. What determines our focus will be largely based on the interests of the class.

Possible topics include: The Problem of Hell, Trinity and Incarnation, The Problem of Prayer, Puzzles About Atonement, Personal Identity and the Afterlife, Theism and Materialism, Religion and Science