

Syllabus

PHL-283: Philosophy and Christian Thought
Course Author: Timothy M. Salo, Ph.D.

ONSITE FACULTY: Please click on Faculty Resources for instruction for onsite classes.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of several subject in the study of philosophy (e.g. logic, ethics, epistemology) from a Christian worldview and with a distinctively Wesleyan-Arminian perspective.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: None

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge: None

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to

1. Describe the primary and fundamental purpose of philosophy, especially in relation to Christian thought, reason and revelation.
2. Discuss the difference between and the relevance of the varied branches of philosophy.
3. Relate the necessity of rationalism and empiricism for life's meaning and success.
4. Apply such areas as science, logic, ethics, and morals to matters of philosophical discussion, such as: freedom vs. determinism, mind vs. body, reality and identity, society and the human psyche, truth and beauty, value and meaning.
5. Discuss the integration of reality and existence, self-actualization and self-transcendence.
6. Employ the shared methodology of philosophy and Christian thought in handling life questions (self-examination and personal reflection).
7. Contrast the differences in deductive and inductive thinking, assumption and presumption, argument and fallacy.

Course Goals

1. By studying the foundations of Western philosophy and its influence on Christian faith and worldviews, each student will better understand why illuminated (redeemed) reason is a legitimate part of daily Christian experience.
2. Each student will gain a methodology that engenders thoughtful consideration and categorization of all issues in their present reality, that in turn influences their personal spirituality, participation in the Church, and life in the larger world.

Course Textbooks

Schenck, K. (2014). *A Christian philosophical journey*. Marion, IN: Triangle Publishing.

*Students need to have a standard Bible translation such as the New American Standard (NASB), the New International Version (NIV), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), the New King James Version (NKJV) etc. It is a good idea to secure a standard translation that has study notes

along with it. Students may also access standard translations on Internet sites such as: BibleGateway.com, BibleStudyTools.com, etc.

Grading Scale

A	4.0 (Superior)	95% - 100%	950-1000
A-	3.7	92%-94.9%	920-949
B+	3.3	89%-91.9%	890-919
B	3.0 (Above Average)	85%-88.9%	850-889
B-	2.7	82%-84.9%	820-849
C+	2.3	79%-81.9%	790-819
C	2.0 (Average)	75%-78.9%	750-789
C-	1.7	72%-74.9%	720-749
D+	1.3	69%-71.9%	690-719
D	1.0 (Passing)	65%-68.9%	650-689
F	0.0	0%-64.9%	0-649

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the IWU Catalog.

Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Description of Work
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into

	material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class are average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work are below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below-acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work are unacceptable and do not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Assignment: Worldviews and Chapter Questions	Due by the end of the workshop, but do this as the first thing in this workshop	4 hours	50
1.2 Discussion: Fatalism or Freedom?	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
Totals		14 hours*	130

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.3 Discussion: Deductive or Inductive?	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
1.4 Group Discussion: Theodicy Project	Discussion and draft submission due by the end of the workshop. Final project due by the end of Workshop Five	3 hours	10
1.5 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop	1 hour	20
Totals		14 hours*	130

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment times will vary.

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Assignment: Worldviews and Chapter Questions	Due by the end of the workshop, but do this as the first thing in this workshop	4 hours	50
2.2 Discussion: Testing Truth	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
2.3 Discussion: Rationalism or Empiricism?	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
2.4 Group Discussion: Theodicy Project	Discussion and draft submission due by the end of the workshop. Final project due by the end of Workshop Five	3 hours	10
2.5 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop	1 hour	20
Totals		14 hours*	130

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Assignment: Worldviews and Chapter Questions	Due by the end of the workshop, but do this as the first thing in this workshop	4 hours	50
3.2 Discussion: Describing Reality	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
3.3 Discussion: Creationism or Evolution?	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
3.4 Group Discussion: Theodicy Project	Discussion and draft submission due by the end of the workshop. Final project due by the end of Workshop Five	3 hours	10
3.5 Assignment: Epistemology	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	100
3.6 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop	1 hour	20
Totals		20 hours*	230

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Assignment: Worldviews and Chapter Questions	Due by the end of the workshop, but do this as the first thing in this workshop	4 hours	50
4.2 Discussion: Free Will or Determinism?	Initial response due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
4.3 Discussion: Human Organizations	Initial response due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
Totals		20 hours*	230

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.4 Group Discussion: Theodicy Project	Discussion and draft submission due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	10
4.5 Assignment: Metaphysics	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	100
4.6 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop	1 hour	20
Totals		20 hours*	230

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
5.1 Assignment: Worldviews and Chapter Questions	Due by the end of the workshop, but do this as first thing in the workshop	4 hours	50
5.2 Discussion: Historiography	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
5.3 Discussion: Post-Modernism	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; all other required responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	25
5.4 Group Discussion: Theodicy Project	Due by the end of the workshop	5 hours	60
5.5 Assignment: Axiology	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	100
5.6 Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop	1 hour	20
End of Course Survey	Due by the end of the workshop	30 minutes	10 Extra Credit Points
Totals		22:30 hours*	280

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Course Development Resources (suggested)

Boa, K., & Bowman, R. M. (2005). *20 Compelling evidences that God exists: Discover why believing in God makes so much sense*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook.

Bonhoeffer, D. (1986). *Ethics*. New York, NY: Collier.

Bowie, G., Michaels, M., & Solomon, R. (2011). *Twenty questions: An introduction to philosophy* (7th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage.

Cahn, S., Eckert, M., & Buckley, R. (2004). *Knowledge and reality: Classic and contemporary readings*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Craig, W., & Moreland, J. (Eds.). (2012). *The Blackwell companion to natural theology*. Oxford, England: Wiley-Blackwell.

Craig, W., & Moreland, J. (Eds.). (2003). *Philosophical foundations for a Christian worldview*. Downer's Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press.

Davis, S. (1997). *God, reason & theistic proofs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Geisler, N., (1988). *Christian apologetics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Kellenberger, J. (2007). *Introduction to philosophy of religion*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Kessler, G. (1999). *Philosophy of religion in a global perspective*. Stamford, CT: Cengage.

Lewis, C. S. (2001). *Mere Christianity*. New York, NY: HarperOne.

Lewis, C. S. (2002). *The problem of pain*. New York, NY: HarperOne.

Marmysz, J. (2012). *The path of philosophy: Truth, wonder, and distress*. Stamford, CT: Cengage.

McGrath, A. (2009). *A fine-tuned universe: The quest for God in science and theology*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Melchert, N. (2011). *The great conversation: A historical introduction to philosophy* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Moreland, J., Meister, C. & Sweis, K. (Eds.). (2013). *Debating Christian theism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Peterson, M. L. (1992). *The problem of evil*. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

Peterson, M., Hasker, W., Reichenbach, B., & Basinger, D. (2012). *Reason & religious belief: An introduction to the philosophy of religion* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Peterson, M. L., & Vanarragon, R. J. (Eds.). (2003). *Contemporary debates in philosophy of religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Peterson, M. L. (1992). *The problem of evil*. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

Plantinga, A. (1977). *God, freedom, and evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Plantinga, A. (2000). *Warranted Christian belief*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Presbey, G., Struhl, K., & Olsen, R. (2000). *The philosophical quest: A cross-cultural reader* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Sennett, J., & D. Groothuis (Eds.). (2005). *In defense of natural theology: A post-Humean assessment*. Downer's Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press.

Spitzer, R. (2010). *New proofs for the existence of God: Contributions of contemporary physics and philosophy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Stumpf, S., & Fieser, J. (2012). *Philosophy: history and readings* (8th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Swinburne, R. (2004). *The existence of God* (2nd. ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Van Inwagen, P. (2008). *Metaphysics* (3rd. ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Expectations, Policies, and Important Student Information

School/Division	Link
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School/Division	Link
DeVoe School of Business Division of Liberal Arts School of Services and Leadership	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
School of Educational Leadership	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Wesley Seminary @ IWU	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Nursing - Undergraduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>
Nursing - Graduate	<u>View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information</u>