

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Summer Interim 2002
Kaneohe MCBH

Course: PH-RE-SO 305 Sociology and Philosophy of Religion
Instructor: Rev. Herman Gomes, ss.cc.
236-7749

Textbook: "Reason and Religious Belief" Paterson, Hasker, Reichenback, Basinger

Course Description: Going beyond examining the validity of the proofs for the existance of God, the course studies religion as providing continuity between mythological ways of experiencing the world and its later rational investigations. As a source of powerful passions responsible for many of the moving forces of history, religion is an unavoidable subject for our study and reflection. The course especially studies the possibility of a Christain life in modern times. Fulfill interdisciplinary course requirements.
This course is designed to be an introduction to the basic issues and options in the exciting field of philoloshy and religion. We do not presume background in philosophy on the part of the student.. However, we will deal with a lot of general philosophy along the way. The ultimate goal is to help students to be able to form reasonable opinions about the issues and acquire the ability to continue to think about them in meaningful and helpful ways.

Course Objectives:

1. To distill and discuss the main issues in the field of religion and philosophy.
2. To gain exposure to methods of study.
3. To explore concepts in *classical theism* with a lens to cosmology, metaphysics, anthropology, epistomology, linguistics, and ethics.
4. To gain an understanding of how religions of the world function in reference to philosophical thought.
5. To enable students to assimilate, integreate, and articulate their philosophy of God and religion.

Class Format: All assigned readings have been scheduled into the course calendar. Class participation is expected. There will be periodic tests to help keep students current with class material. to facilitate different learning styles - general lectures, seminar and small group dynamics will be employed at different intervals throughout the course. The student is encouraged to actively participate by completeing the assigned readings prior to the class, ready to enter into discussion in small and large groups; interacting and presenting questions pertinent to the matter during general lectures.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation-periodic quiz.....	25%
2 short written and oral presentations.....	25%
Midterm Exam.....	25%
Final Exam.....	25%

Grading Scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 59%

Course Schedule:

June 11 T	Chap. 1 Thinking About God; the Search for the Ultimate
June 13 R	Chap. 2 Religious Experience: What does it mean to encounter the Divine Chap. 3 Faith and REason; How are they related?
June 15 S	Chap. 4 The Divine Attributes: What is God like? Chap. 5 Theistic Arguments: Is there evidence for God's existence?
June 17 M	Chap. 6 The Problem of Evil: the case against God's Existance
June 19 W	Chap. 9 Miracles: Does God intervene in earthly affairs?
June 21 F	Chap. 10 Life after death: Are there reasons for hope?
June 22 S	Chap. 11 Religion and Science: Compatible or Incompatible?
June 24 M	Chap. 12 Religious Diversity: How can we understand differences among religions?
June 26 W	Chap. 13 Religious Ethics: the Relation of God to Morality
June 28 F	Philosophy and Theological Doctrine: Can Philosophy illumine Religious Belief?