

PHILOSOPHY 221 *Philosophy of Religion*

This is *Not* a General Education course, Humanities elective, or “Diversity” (MGM) course

Texts *Philosophy of Religion*, John Hick, 4th edition. (H)

The Philosophy of Religion: A Buddhist Perspective, Arvind Sharma (S)

Description Basic issues in the philosophy of religion, addressed from both the Western Judeo-Christian-Islamic perspective and a Non-Western, Buddhist point of view: the nature of God, arguments for and against the existence of God, the Problem of Evil, the nature of revelation, faith, and religious experience, the justification of religious beliefs, the problem of religious pluralism, and the character of human destiny.

Grades Four exams, essay and short answer, 30-40 points each. Exam dates TBA. Make-up exams allowed only in cases involving medical problems or other emergencies. These exceptional cases *must be documented* and *notification of your emergency must be provided* to the instructor within 24 hours of the exam time.

Rules No sleeping, socializing, or reading anything other than the texts in class. Cell phones *must be off*. Audio taping by permission only.

Readings

H Chapter 1 The Judaic-Christian Concept of God, p. 5-14

S Chapter 1 The Concept of God, p. 9-24

H Chapter 2 Arguments For the Existence of God, p. 15-26

S Chapter 2 Grounds for Belief in God, p. 25-37

H Chapter 3 Arguments Against the Existence of God, p. 30-38

S Chapter 3 Grounds for Disbelief in God, p. 40-51

Exam 1: H & S Chapters 1-3

H Chapter 4 The Problem of Evil, p. 39-48

S Chapter 4 The Problem of Evil, p. 52-61, 65-72

H Chapter 5 Revelation and Faith, p. 56-67

S Chapter 5 Revelation and Faith, p. 79-86, 88-98

Exam 2: H & S Chapters 4, 5

H Chapter 6 Evidentialism, Foundationalism, and Rational Belief, p. 68-81

S Chapter 5 Revelation and Faith, p. 73-79

H Chapter 9 The Conflicting Truth Claims of Different Religions, p. 109-119

S Chapter 8 The Conflicting Truth Claims of Different Religions, p. 139-142, 144-151

Exam 3: H Chapters 6, 9; S Chapters 5, 8

H Chapter 10 Immortality and Resurrection, p. 120-130

S Chapter 9 Immortality and Resurrection, p. 153-165

H Chapter 11 Karma and Reincarnation, p. 131-142

S Chapter 10 Karma and Reincarnation, p. 166-180

Exam 4: H Chapters 10, 11; S Chapters 9, 10

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