

# PHIL 017: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

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**Originator**

msmith

**Justification / Rationale**

Adding online modalities.

**Effective Term**

Fall 2022

**Credit Status**

Credit - Degree Applicable

**Subject**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Course Number**

017

**Full Course Title**

Philosophy of Religion

**Short Title**

PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION

**Discipline****Disciplines List**

Philosophy

**Modality**

Face-to-Face

100% Online

**Catalog Description**

An in-depth examination of some of the significant commonalities and major differences among and between the three great monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Particular attention will be paid to the logical analyses of some of the distinctive doctrines endorsed by each faith, and how these doctrines may have reinforced and exacerbated the historic and contemporary conflicts between civilizations.

**Schedule Description**

Philosophical analysis of religious beliefs and inter religious conflicts. Advisory: PHIL 006 or PHIL 012 &amp; ENG 061 IGETC: 3B

**Lecture Units**

3

**Lecture Semester Hours**

54

**Lab Units**

0

**In-class Hours**

54

**Out-of-class Hours**

108

**Total Course Units**

3

**Total Semester Hours**

162

**Prerequisite Course(s)**

Advisory: PHIL 006 or PHIL 012 &amp; ENG 061

**Required Text and Other Instructional Materials****Resource Type**

Book

**Author**

Peterson, Michael

**Title**

Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings

**Edition**

4th

**City**

New York, New York

**Publisher**

Oxford University Press

**Year**

2009

**College Level**

Yes

**Flesch-Kincaid Level**

14

**ISBN #**

978-019539359

**Class Size Maximum**

45

**Entrance Skills**

Study and understand extended expository texts such as essays involving general scholarship.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to read and respond in writing beyond the literal interpretation of the text.

**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate the ability to read and respond in writing beyond the literal interpretation of the text.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

**Entrance Skills**

Formulate effective, focused theses in various rhetorical modes.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Use theses to organize paragraphs into coherent analyses.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

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**Entrance Skills**

Formulate, develop and polish effective expository texts of at least five pages

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Use theses to organize paragraphs into coherent analyses.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to use research skills including library resources such as books, periodicals, electronic databases and online resources such as the internet.

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**Entrance Skills**

Effectively use source material to serve as examples and explanations to develop focused and relevant topics

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Use theses to organize paragraphs into coherent analyses.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

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**Entrance Skills**

Fully utilize a dictionary, thesaurus and other reference materials.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to use research skills including library resources such as books, periodicals, electronic databases and online resources such as the internet.

ENG 061-Utilize a handbook to properly cite and document source material in MLA format.

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**Entrance Skills**

Adequately negotiate a library to find a variety of source material for research including: 1) periodicals; 2) books; 3) electronic data bases; and 4) on-line sources.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to use research skills including library resources such as books, periodicals, electronic databases and online resources such as the internet.

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**Entrance Skills**

Utilize a handbook to properly cite and document source material.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Utilize a handbook to properly cite and document source material in MLA format.

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**Entrance Skills**

Utilize a handbook to effectively edit written material.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

ENG 061-Utilize a handbook to properly cite and document source material in MLA format.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate an ability to analyze and respond critically to expository writing.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Use theses to organize paragraphs into coherent analyses.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to think critically and express ideas using various patterns of development.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to read and respond in writing beyond the literal interpretation of the text.

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**Entrance Skills**

Identify familiar types of readings and study strategies used in the content areas.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

ENG 061-Demonstrate the ability to read and respond in writing beyond the literal interpretation of the text.

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**Entrance Skills**

Write organized summaries and responses to what they read.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Use theses to organize paragraphs into coherent analyses.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate and awareness of the various textbook formats and writing styles.

**Requisite Course Objectives**

ENG 061-Recognize features of style such as purpose, audience and tone integrate these elements into academic and professional writing.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate an elementary understanding of the basic tenets of Judaism.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate an elementary understanding of the basic tenets of Christianity.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate an elementary understanding of the basic tenets of Islam.

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**Entrance Skills**

Employ writing as a means to generate and develop ideas, and to clarify and organize thoughts.

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**Entrance Skills**

Construct focused theses.

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**Entrance Skills**

Select, develop, and organize ideas in a structured format

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**Entrance Skills**

Exhibit proficiency in correct usage of grammar, punctuation, and mechanics in composition.

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**Entrance Skills**

Demonstrate skill in researching information, including library and on-line sources.

### Course Content

1. Historical and conceptual overview of Judaism.
2. Historical and conceptual overview of Christianity.
3. Historical and conceptual overview of Islam.
4. Conflicting revelations: The Word of God contrasted with the words of God.
5. Rational arguments for the existence of God: Maimonides and Aquinas.
6. The *kalam* cosmological argument in Islam.
7. The ontological argument
8. The argument from design.
9. The attributes of God.
10. Is God incorporeal?
11. Can an essentially incorporeal being become incarnate? Can God become incarnate?
12. Is God Singular, or a Trinity?
13. The question of the rational comprehensibility of the Trinity.
14. The reference of the term 'God'.
15. Do all monotheistic religions worship the same God?

### Course Objectives

	<b>Objectives</b>
Objective 1	Demonstrate an understanding of the important commonalities among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Objective 2	Demonstrate an understanding of the important differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Objective 3	Demonstrate an understanding of how these differences have contributed to historic and contemporary civilizational conflicts.
Objective 4	Demonstrate a rudimentary understanding of the conflicting and complimentary roles that philosophical reason and revelation play in the Abrahamic religions.
Objective 5	Demonstrate an understanding of a rationally-based argument for the existence of God.
Objective 6	Demonstrate an understanding of the logical analyses of the divine attributes.
Objective 7	Demonstrate an understanding of the distinction between the connotation and the denotation of proper names and natural kind terms.
Objective 8	Demonstrate an understanding of 'God' and 'Allah' as logically functioning as both descriptions and as proper names.
Objective 9	Demonstrate a general understanding of the thesis that the satisfaction of some description determines the reference of proper names and natural kind terms.
Objective 10	Demonstrate a general understanding of the thesis that proper names and natural kind terms refer without the mediation of any descriptions ("direct reference").

### Student Learning Outcomes

	<b>Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:</b>
Outcome 1	Analyze a selected philosophical argument for (or against) the existence of God.
Outcome 2	Explicate and evaluate a philosophical argument for the incompatibility of divine foreknowledge and free will.
Outcome 3	Describe the major ideas of monotheistic religions.

### Methods of Instruction

<b>Method</b>	<b>Please provide a description or examples of how each instructional method will be used in this course.</b>
Lecture	Delivery of information, and the interpretation, and analysis of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.
Discussion	Building students' comprehension of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.

**Methods of Evaluation**

Method	Please provide a description or examples of how each evaluation method will be used in this course.	Type of Assignment
College level or pre-collegiate essays	Assessment of students' comprehension of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.	In and Out of Class
Mid-term and final evaluations	Assessment of students' comprehension of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.	In and Out of Class
Tests/Quizzes/Examinations	Assessment of students' comprehension of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.	In and Out of Class
Written homework	Building students' comprehension of philosophical, logical, and religious concepts.	Out of Class Only

**Assignments**
**Other In-class Assignments**

- Attendance at lectures by instructor and occasional guest speakers, including the taking of detailed notes thereon.
- Viewing of films and video presentations, including the taking of detailed notes thereon.
- Listening to audio recordings, including the taking of detailed notes thereon.
- Reports by students, singly or in panel.
- Examinations of various types, including essay and multiple choice.

**Other Out-of-class Assignments**

- Readings in the textbook and in recommended supplementary literature.
- Composition of brief analytical essays.

**Grade Methods**

Letter Grade Only

**Distance Education Checklist**
**Instructional Materials and Resources**
**Effective Student/Faculty Contact**

Which of the following methods of regular, timely, and effective student/faculty contact will be used in this course?

**Within Course Management System:**

Chat room/instant messaging  
 Discussion forums with substantive instructor participation  
 Online quizzes and examinations  
 Private messages  
 Regular virtual office hours  
 Timely feedback and return of student work as specified in the syllabus  
 Weekly announcements

**External to Course Management System:**

Direct e-mail  
 Synchronous audio/video

**Briefly discuss how the selected strategies above will be used to maintain Regular Effective Contact in the course.**

The methods listed above are the most successful ways to accomplish regular effective contact in an online learning environment. Announcements, email, regular virtual office hours, chat rooms/instant messaging, etc., insure that online students receive the same information and opportunities to interact with instructors as do students enrolled in non-virtual learning environments.

**If interacting with students outside the LMS, explain how additional interactions with students outside the LMS will enhance student learning.**

Synchronous instruction replicates the coherence and immediacy of the in-person classroom.

## Other Information

**COD GE**

C3 - Arts, Humanities, and Culture

**CSU GE**

C2 - Humanities

**IGETC GE**

3B - Humanities

## MIS Course Data

**CIP Code**

38.0101 - Philosophy.

**TOP Code**

150900 - Philosophy

**SAM Code**

E - Non-Occupational

**Basic Skills Status**

Not Basic Skills

**Prior College Level**

Not applicable

**Cooperative Work Experience**

Not a Coop Course

**Course Classification Status**

Credit Course

**Approved Special Class**

Not special class

**Noncredit Category**

Not Applicable, Credit Course

**Program Status**

Program Applicable

**Transfer Status**

Transferable to both UC and CSU

**Allow Audit**

No

**Repeatability**

No

**Materials Fee**

No

**Additional Fees?**

No

## Approvals

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date**

11/18/2021

**Academic Senate Approval Date**

12/09/2021

**Board of Trustees Approval Date**

01/21/2022

**Chancellor's Office Approval Date**

03/11/2010

**Course Control Number**

CCC000121146

**Programs referencing this course**Philosophy AA-T Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined/?key=17>)Liberal Arts: Arts, Humanities Communication Studies AA Degree (<http://catalog.collegeofthedesert.eduundefined/?key=26>)