Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 350

Course Title: Philosophy of Religion

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Philosophical exploration of the classical issues of theistic religious thought, such as the reality of God, the problem of evil, religious language, life after death, and the pluralism of religious traditions. Crosslisted as RELI 350.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Any number of philosophy of religion textbooks, e.g., Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, and David Basinger. Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings. Oxford UP.

Course Objectives:
- To understand the variety of answers that have been given to questions concerning the relationship between religion and rationality.
- To gain an appreciation of some classic and contemporary philosophical texts.
- To hone one’s skill in identifying and evaluating arguments.
- To improve one’s ability to think and write clearly and critically.
- To gain a more complete and refined understanding of one’s own intersection with religious issues.
- To clearly see the connection between philosophical thought and life’s questions.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:
- Read classic philosophical prose for critical understanding.
- Understand the classic issues and problems in philosophy of religion.
- Formalize sophisticated philosophical arguments.
- Analyze and provide criticisms of sophisticated philosophical arguments.
- Understand the method of philosophy as applied to theistic issues.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):
- Proofs for God’s Existence
- The Problem of Evil
- Faith and Reason
- Religious Pluralism
Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Mark L. Price
Name
Signature
Date: March 23, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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