

### **PHI 545 Business Ethics**

**Instructor:** Keith Buhler

**Email:** keith.buhler@uky.edu

**Twitter:** keith\_buhler

### **Course Description:**

This course is a survey of central topics in the philosophy of religion, including faith and reason, religious experience, the existence of God, miracles, revelation, the problem of evil, providence and foreknowledge, survival after death, religious language, and religious diversity. Readings will be drawn primarily from contemporary authors and will focus on western theism, although there will also be some attention to eastern religions. After reading a variety of articles on the aforementioned topics, we will read a recent monograph dealing with arguments for the existence of God, *Natural Signs and Knowledge of God* by C. Stephen Evans.

Our goals are:

- To become familiar with current controversies and topics in philosophy of religion;
- To examine several arguments for and against the existence of God, for and against atheism, and to examine religious experiences and miracle testimonies, to examine religious language, and the relationship between faith and reason.
- To develop a thoughtful, rational, Christian world-view

### **Texts**

- Michael Peterson et al., eds., *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings* (Oxford UP), Fourth edition
- C. Stephen Evans, *Natural Signs and Knowledge of God* (Oxford UP)
- Plantinga, "Two or More Kinds of Scripture Scholarship"
- Yandell, "Religious Pluralism"

### **Grading**

Your grade for the class will depend on your performance in reading and writing philosophical papers. Papers will be medium-to-short weekly papers, and one final paper. There is no test.

Assessment category / Percent of semester grade

Participation 10%

Weekly papers 60%

Term Paper 30%

### **Unit Papers:**

At the end of each meeting, a question will be posed that a weekly paper will endeavor to answer. The answer ought to cite and interact with the week's readings, and be sent to the instructor by Wednesday night 5pm.

The final term paper will be a topic synthesizing one of the major issues and presenting an argument (probably a critique) about one of the major positions.

### **Course Outline**

- 5/12 PR, Part 2: Religious Experience (40-78), Teresa, James
- 5/19 PR Part 3: Faith and Reason (91-120), Aquinas, Pascal, Clifford, James
- 5/26 PR Part 5, Ontological, Cosmological, and Teleological Arguments (169-230)
- 6/2 PR Part 7: Problem of Evil (288-341) / Part 8: Divine Action (348-76)
- 6/9 PR Part 9: Religious Language (391-424) & PR Part 10: Miracles (431-60)
- 6/16 PR Part 11: Life after Death (465-89) / PR Part 12: Religion and Science Intro, "Two Separate Domains" (509-523) and Plantinga, "Two (or More) Kinds of Scripture Scholarship"
- 6/23 Evans, Natural Signs 1-3.
- 6/30 Evans, Natural Signs 4-6.
- 7/7 Paper due.