

## Grading Procedures:

Grades for term papers will be based on clarity and organization of thought, originality, depth of scholarship, quality of philosophical insight, depth of argument, and punctuality in meeting deadlines (students who are making good progress towards completing the paper but have not finished it by the deadline will be given extra time; however, the paper will be held to a higher standard). Class participation grades will be based not merely on the amount of participation (including regular attendance), but on preparedness, quality of contributions, and depth of insight.

## Tentative Course Outline:

- Week 1 (Aug. 17): TOPIC: Aug 19—Introductory Remarks; The Logical Argument from Evil  
READINGS: J. L Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence” (Adams)
- Week 2 (Aug. 24): TOPIC: Theodicy and Defense: Two Seminal Responses to the Problem of Evil  
READINGS: Hick, “Soul-Making and Suffering” (Adams); Plantinga, “God, Evil, and the Metaphysics of Freedom” (Adams)
- Week 3 (Aug 31): TOPIC: Shifting the Debate: The “Evidential” Argument from Evil  
READINGS: William Rowe, “The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism” (Adams); Bruce Russell, “The Persistent Problem of Evil” (D2L); LABOR DAY
- Week 4 (Sept 7): TOPIC: The Appeal to Mystery and its critics  
Week 5: (Sept. 14): READINGS: Stephen Wykstra, “The Humean Obstacle...” (Adams); William Rowe, “Evil and the Theistic Hypothesis” (Adams); Richard Swinburne, “The Need for Theodicy” (D2L)
- Week 6 (Sept. 21): TOPIC: Rethinking God’s Moral Perfection  
READINGS: Eric Reitan, “Does the Argument from Evil Assume a Consequentialist Morality?” and “A Deontological Theodicy? Swinburne’s Lapse and the Problem of Moral Evil” (D2L)
- Exegesis*  
*critical response*
- Week 7 (Sept. 28): TOPIC: Horrendous Evil and Affliction  
READINGS: Marilyn McCord Adams, “Horrendous Evil and the Goodness of God” (Adams); Simone Weil, “The Love of God and Affliction” (D2L); Diogenes Allen, “Natural Evil and the Love of God” (Adams)
- Week 8 (Oct. 5): TOPIC: From Temporal to Eternal Evils: The Problem of Hell  
READINGS: Thomas Talbott, “The Doctrine of Everlasting Punishment” (D2L); Marilyn McCord Adams, “The Problem of Hell: A Problem of Evil for Christians” (D2L)
- Week 9 (Oct. 12): TOPIC: Defending Hell, Part 1  
READINGS: Charles Seymour, “Hell, Justice, and Freedom” (D2L); John Lamont, “Justice and Goodness of Hell” (D2L)
- Week 10 (Oct 19): TOPIC: Defending Hell, Part 2  
READINGS: Walls, Ch’s 1-2
- Week 11 (Oct. 26): TOPIC: Defending Hell, Part 3  
READINGS: Walls, Ch’s 3-4
- Week 12 (Nov. 2): TOPIC: Defending Hell, Part 4  
READINGS: Walls, Ch’s 5-6
- Week 13 (Nov. 9): TOPIC: The Case for Universalism  
READINGS: Reitan & Kronen, Ch’s 1-4
- Week 14 (Nov. 16): TOPIC: The Case for Universalism  
READINGS: Reitan & Kronen, Ch’s 5-6
- Week 15 (Nov. 23): TOPIC: The Case for Universalism  
READINGS: Reitan & Kronen, Ch’s 7-8
- Week 16 (Nov. 3): TOPIC: Final Concerns and STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
READINGS: Reitan & Kronen, Ch. 9
- Finals Week (Dec. 7): STUDENT PRESENTATIONS