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PH 501 Philosophy of Christian Religion

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PH 501
PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION
JUNE 1998
8:30-11:20
Prof. Chuck Gutenson

I. Objectives:

To learn to love God more fully and to become more thoughtful and articulate witnesses to the truth of the Christian gospel by:

1. gaining a deeper understanding of how philosophical convictions impact theological beliefs and vice-versa;
2. examining the problem of evil and some Christian responses to it in some detail;
3. thinking through the relationship between faith and reason;
4. and gaining some competence in analyzing and criticizing philosophical arguments.

II. REQUIREMENTS

1. Most of the class time will be given to lecture, the remaining part will be spent in discussion. It is required that students read all assignments in order to facilitate understanding the lectures and to encourage participation in discussion. A reading report will be due at the end of the term. If less than 100% of the reading is complete, it may adversely affect the grade assigned for the course.
2. Four essays will be assigned. Each will be 4-5 pages in length, and they are to be typed, double-spaced. Please staple the sheets and include a cover sheet. Aim for clarity and organization in your presentation of your argument. Interact with the readings, but, of course, be sure to appropriately cite all quotes, etc. Due dates for these papers will be discussed on the first day of class.
3. Class attendance is required and will be checked at the beginning of each session. Note that, given the intensive nature of this course, even missing one class will significantly impact your exposure to the material covered.

III. TEXTS

1. Metaphysics by William Hasker.
2. Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion by Michael Peterson, et. Al.
3. Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings (Marked as Readings in the listing of daily assignments) by Michael Peterson, et. Al.

IV. DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

June 1	Hasker	13-80, 119-123.
June 2	Peterson Readings	XI-XIV, 3-11, 136-52, 68-88 351-356.
June 3	Peterson Readings	13-29 20-29, 167-189, 198-210,221-227.
June 4	Peterson Readings	92-112 40-54, 231-242, 254-266.
June 5	Peterson Readings	32-44 266-305.
June 8	Peterson Readings	117-132 80-94, 63-79, 307-320.
June 9	Peterson Readings	156-171 322-346.
June 10	Readings	389-416
June 11	Peterson Readings	174-192 421-431, 443-462.
June 12	Peterson	196-214, 219-232, 254-271.