COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines a specific topic in the philosophy of religion, such as faith and reason, religious experience, or an important thinker. It may be repeated with permission of the instructor. This semester the course will focus on the work of Alvin Plantinga, one of the most important defenders of Christian theism alive today.

TEXTBOOK
Alvin Plantinga,

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES AND COURSE STRUCTURE
In this course we will evaluate the views of the renowned Christian philosopher, Alvin Plantinga, in Where the Conflict Really Lies (2011), which may very well be his last statement on the relationship between religion and science. In addition, we will also read selected parts of a summary of his views in God, Freedom, and Evil, written in a non-technical language but still very demanding. Just when everybody had closed the book on theism, believing that David Hume had pretty much refuted it, in the late 1960s Plantinga began to publish a series of papers defending traditional theism that single-handedly revived the philosophy of religion. Unquestionably Plantinga has to rank as one of the most important philosophers of religion of the last century.

His “The Free-Will Defense” remains on the most important replies to Hume’s problem of evil; and full-length book, The Nature of Necessity, pretty much put Anselm’s ontological argument back in circulation. We will examine versions of both arguments as found in God, Freedom, and Evil.

In the 2011 work Plantinga turns his attention to science and scientific naturalism, and boldly argues that there is no conflict between religion and science; the conflict, as the title of the book intimates, is with naturalism, which for Plantinga is a philosophical, not a scientific worldview.

Selected replies to Plantinga will also be considered

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES
1. One research 12-15 research paper on a topic provided by the instructor (70% of final grade).

2. Class Presentation (based on the reading assignment for each week): Two (2) pages, orally delivered in class (30% of final grade).

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Textbooks, Overview of course

Conflict of Religion with Evolution
Required Reading: *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, Chapter 1.

Week 2
Evolution
Required Reading: *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, Chapter 2; Paul Draper, “Evolution and the Problem of Evil” on Canvas.

Guest Speaker: Biology professor from FIU

Week 3
Religion and Historical Biblical Criticism

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 4
Historical Biblical Criticism

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 5
Intelligent Design

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 6
Intelligent Design

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 7
Intelligent Design
Required Reading: *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, Chapter 9.

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 8
Naturalism
Required Reading: *Where the Conflict Really Lies*, Chapter 10.

Presentation: ______________________________________

Week 9
Divine Intervention
Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 10  Divine Intervention
Required Reading:  Plantinga, Where the Conflict Really Lies, Chapter 4.

Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 11  The Problem of Evil

Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 12  The Problem of Evil
Required Reading:  God, Freedom, and Evil, Part I.a. 5-11; I.b.

Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 1  The Cosmological and Teleological Arguments
Required Reading:  God, Freedom, and Evil, Part I.b.

Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 14  The Ontological Argument
Required Reading:  God, Freedom, and Evil, Part II.c. 1-6.

Presentation: ________________________________________

Week 15  The Ontological Argument: The Modal Version
Required Reading:  Plantinga, God, Freedom, and Evil, Part II.c. 7-10.

Presentation: ________________________________________

LAST DAY OF CLASSES, RESEARCH PAPERS DUE