

REL 4461 TOPICS IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
GOD, SCIENCE, AND METAPHYSICS
FALL 2025
PC 449
INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL ALVAREZ

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course will try to answer the question: IS THERE A GOD? In trying to answer this question we will explore the different arguments that have been marshalled in support of the claim that there is considerable evidence for the claim that God or something corresponding to what theists call "God" does exist. We will examine not only some of the classical and contemporary arguments drawn from science (e.g. Aquinas' cosmological argument, the Kalam cosmological argument of William Lane Craig, the fine-tuning of the universe argument, the problem of evil, and the moral argument).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class Presentation (2-page, 12 pt. font) delivered orally based on the assigned reading for the week (10% of grade).
2. Two short essays (3-4 pages) on topics distributed by the instructor, based on the assigned readings (50% of grade).
3. Four (4) Group Discussions on topics based on the readings (40% of grade).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (total number of pages of required reading for the entire course: approximately 300 pages)

William lane Craig and J. P. Moreland, *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology* (Blackwell, 2012).

Other reading materials will be posted on Canvas.

COURSE STRUCTURE

WEEK 1

Syllabus and Introduction of the topics; Craig & Moreland, *The Kalam Cosmological Argument*, 101-132.

WEEK 2 The Kalam Cosmological Argument

Craig & Moreland. 132-179 (recommended but not required).

WEEK 3

Kalam Argument continued, Craig & Moreland, 179-196.

WEEK 4 The Teleological or Fine-Tuning Argument

Craig & Moreland, 202-239.

WEEK 5

The Teleological Argument continued: Craig & Moreland, 239-278.

WEEK 7 The Moral Argument

Craig & Moreland, 391-446; Hastings Rashdall, "God as necessary for an objective morality," 144-152 (on Canvas).

WEEK 8

The Moral Argument continued.

Recommended: Michael Ruse, "Naturalist Moral Nonrealism" (Evolutionary Ethics), in Loftin, *God & Morality*, 53-74 (on Canvas); Evan Fales, "Naturalist Moral Realism" [Moral Objectivity Without God], in Loftin, *God & Morality*, 13-34 (on Canvas).

WEEK 9 The Problem of Evil

Craig & Moreland, 449-468; Draper's Evidential Argument (on Canvas); Nelson Pike, "Hume on Evil" (on Canvas).

WEEK 10

The Problem of Evil continued: Craig & Moreland, 468-494; Robert Merrihew Adams, "Divine Command Modified" (on Canvas).

WEEK 11 Argument from Miracles and the Resurrection

Craig & Moreland, 593-628; Hume "On Miracles" (on Canvas).

WEEK 12

Argument from miracles and the resurrection continued: Craig & Moreland, 628-659.

WEEK 13 Argument from Reason

Craig & Moreland, 344-362.

WEEK 14

Argument from Reason continued. Craig & Moreland, 362-388.

WEEK 15

Concluding Discussion