



REL302 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION  
WINTER SEMESTER 2020

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I. INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Jon Korkidakis

Contact Information: [jon@korkidakis.com](mailto:jon@korkidakis.com)

Preferred mode of communication is email. My policy is to respond to a student within 24 hours.

All course syllabi, notes, PowerPoints, and other resources will be available on the school website myHeritage ([heritage.populi.web.com](http://heritage.populi.web.com)). They will also be available on my personal website, [jkorkidakis.com](http://jkorkidakis.com). If you go to my website to the Academics tab you will find the resources under Christian Spiritual Disciplines.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the philosophy of religion that explores the religious issues that concern the professional and nonprofessional philosopher of our society. Such issues as religious experience, the relation of faith and reason, the existence of God, the problem of evil, religious language, the possibility of miracles, life after death, the relation of religion and science, religious pluralism, and religious ethics will be studied. These issues will be explored through the lectures and the reading of Reason and Religious Belief and supplemented with discussions on selected texts from its companion volume, Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings.

III. COURSE TEXTS

Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach & David Basinger. Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (5th ed.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Peterson, Michael, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach & David Basinger. Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings, (4th ed.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

## IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

In support of the general educational objectives of Heritage, this course will specifically address the following objectives:

Outcome	Assessment Methods
Character and Attitude-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop both a deeper desire to critically engage their culture and articulate their faith in a post-modern context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Issue Paper</li> </ul>
Skills-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display a methodology in reasoning which significantly develops their ability to think critically and analyze philosophic theology propositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophical Opinion Paper</li> <li>Major Paper</li> </ul>
Knowledge-Based Outcomes: The student will . . .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display a general knowledge of the major issues, terminology, and persons that have shaped the modern philosophy of religion enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading and Reading Summaries</li> </ul>

## V. WRITING STYLE AND MARKING SCHEMA

- Spelling, syntax and grammar may account for up to 10% of the grade for any written assignment.
- All Heritage guidelines regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be followed. Please familiarize yourself with the Heritage pamphlet on Academic Misconduct for more information. Note that papers may be submitted to a plagiarism review service.
- Papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian writing style. Heritage guidelines in the publication “Survivor’s Secrets” are to be followed as an initial guide. The Heritage library has a reference section that will provide you with additional information about style requirements. Improper use of the required style may result in a grade reduction of up to 10%.
- Papers are to be double-spaced, in 12-point font such as Times New Roman or Arial, with Footnotes set in a font smaller than the main body of the paper but no smaller than 10 point. If submitting a hard copy, the paper must be printed on plain paper.

## VI. CONFIDENTIALITY AND RECORDS

- At times students may elect to speak of personal matters of a confidential nature within the context of a class session. All students within that class are to maintain the

- confidentiality of such information. Breach of this condition may result in dismissal from the class with resultant failure.
2. Copies of selected samples of student work may be retained for the purposes of institutional assessment. The use of such material will be restricted to documented institutional assessment processes.
  3. Any recordings (audio, visual, distance ed.) taken or distributed in the class or course are for the sole purpose of the student enrolled in the course and are not to be distributed or shared in public or private forum without the express consent of the school.

## VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### ATTENDANCE

1. **Monitoring:** Attendance may be taken by having the student sign a sheet of paper, or by the professor, and will be recorded on myHeritage. Students can track their attendance there.
2. **Absences:**
  - a. Attendance will be monitored according to College policies which indicate, for this class, 75% required attendance. Although class attendance will be taken daily, you are responsible for keeping track of your total absences. More than 25% absences will normally result in an automatic failing grade for the course.
  - b. Instructors may assign additional work in order to cover lost time and content.
  - c. Instructors may designate special attendance requirements surrounding specific classes within the schedule or outside-of-class activities that form part of an assignment for the course.
  - d. Students must be aware that they may be subject to additional requirements set by any government assistance plan (such as OSAP) in which they participate.
3. **Coming Late/Leaving Early:** Class begins promptly at the subscribed time and a late arrival may be counted as a 1/3 of an absence. This includes coming in late from breaks.

### ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

1. **Due Dates:** Assignments are due by midnight of the assigned day. Late written assignments will be penalised at the rate of 10% per 24-hour period. The penalty begins from the time the paper is originally due. Late papers will be accepted up to 7 days from when originally due. Papers may be date and time stamped by the General Office or through electronic submission to the instructor. See note below for weekly assignments.
2. **Accepted Media:** Papers are to be submitted through accepted programs such as Word, Pages, Open Office, Scrivener, etc. Papers produced in basic text edit formats will not be deemed compatible with course expectations and will be rejected. See below for further instruction on electronic submissions.
3. **Electronic Submission:** Electronic submissions are allowed and actually preferred for the weekly assignments, papers, and journals. They can be posted to myHeritage and due at

the beginning of class on the assigned day. All electronic submissions must be in PDF format.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. READING

DESCRIPTION: Each student is expected to complete all assigned readings in their entirety. Students will be asked to declare their reading at the end of the semester and use the Reading Log form attached to this syllabus in Appendix 1.

DUE DATE: March 30, 2020                      PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL MARK: 5%

### 2. READING SUMMARIES

DESCRIPTION: For each class several selected readings from Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings are to be read (see schedule below). Summary #1 reflects on the first five classes and Summary #2 on the last five. Give a paragraph or two summarizing each of the readings. Late assignments will receive an "F" unless there is a good reason for tardiness.

DUE DATE(s):            Summary #1 - February 10, 2020  
   Summary #2 – March 23, 2020  
PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL MARK: 30% (2 x 15%)

### 3. CURRENT ISSUE PAPER

DESCRIPTION: The student will write a 5-7 page paper reflecting on a current issue and present the philosophical challenges that exist. It has to be a current news item, one affecting the culture at large, not just the church community (such as abortion, populism, gender issues, etc.). The paper will demonstrate the student's ability to see the way a current issue is shaped by the philosophical presuppositions that underlie it.

DUE DATE: February 3, 2020                      PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL MARK: 15%

### 4. PHILOSOPHICAL OPINION PAPER

DESCRIPTION: The student will write a 5-7 page paper that wrestles with the following statement.

*Without the Christian faith, I would likely not be a person who believes in God.*

The student will either defend and/or dispute the statement demonstrating their grasp of the religious principles that ground their faith. Further, it will help clarify the distinctives of the Christian faith and its philosophical truth moorings it is built upon.

DUE DATE: March 2, 2020                      PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL MARK: 15%

## 5. MAJOR PAPER

DESCRIPTION: Each student will write a research paper on a subject in the philosophy of religion to be approved by the professor. It should be 12-15 pages double-spaced. Possible topics include an individual philosopher of religion, a specific problem in philosophy of religion (ex. evil, free will), or an attribute of God (ex. Beauty).

DUE DATE: March 16, 2020

PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL MARK: 35%

## VIII. MARKING GUIDELINES

The three papers for this course (Current Issue, Philosophical Opinion, and Major), are designed to challenge the student in critical thinking. Each paper, whether 5 pages or 15, will be graded with similar rubrics. The only exception is in the expectations of footnotes. The student has freedom to use minimal resources in the Current Issue and Philosophical Opinion Papers, footnoting only what is demanded by research guidelines.

The Major Paper in contrast, is research oriented, which demands full adherence to the protocols of a research paper.

The guidelines for marking are based on the following components:

Grading:

- Quality of introduction (What is the problem/topic you are investigating/solving?)
- Comprehensiveness of outline (How is your argument going to be presented?)
- Content (The core of your paper which presents your research)
- Referencing (footnotes/bibliography – in Turabian format)
- Conclusions (What are the results of your research and what does it mean?)
- Spelling and form

## IX. FINAL GRADING SCHEME

Reading	5%
Reading Summaries (2 x 15)	30%
Current Issue Paper	15%
Philosophical opinion Paper	15%
Major Paper	35%

## X. ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a course is approximately 2 hrs. for every in-class assigned hour. That means that for a student to anticipate a normal grade in a course which presents no unusual difficulties then he or she should prepare to spend approximately 70-80 hrs. in additional work outside of the classroom per course in order to achieve an average grade.

Note: The following times listed are approximate and will vary by student.		
Reading	Reading Summaries	Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 20 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summaries 1 &amp; 2 – Approx. 8 hours (4 hours each)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Issue – Approx. 10 hours</li> <li>Ph. Opinion Paper – Approx. 10 hours</li> <li>Major Paper – Approx. 30 hours</li> </ul>

## XI. LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

	Knowledge	Thinking/Understanding	Communication	Application
<b>A level</b> Excellent	Thorough information, Proper sourcing of information, Clear, Concise, Accurate	Logical and Effective Order, Sophisticated or Original development; Sophisticated and/or logical original analytical framework; Honest and clear self-presentation where applicable	Introduction clean & engaging, Conclusion summarized main points & points to additional possibilities; Organization & transitions sophisticated	Correct use of footnotes & bibliography; Use of language virtually free from error (spelling, grammar); level/style of language appropriate
<b>B level</b> Very Good	Sufficient Information; Appropriate sourcing, Clear, concise, accurate	Generally logical order; Accurate Observations and analysis; Attempts at honest and clear self-presentation	Introduction clear; Conclusion accurately summarizes main points; Effective overall organization and transitions	Generally correct use of footnotes and bibliography; Use of language conventions is accurate
<b>C level</b> Satisfactory	Inclusion of some accurate information from outside sources; Attempts at clarity, conciseness, accuracy	Some lapses in order of presentation; Some observations/analysis; Some indication of accurate self-presentation	Attempts to engage reader; Conclusion considers main points; Inconsistent overall organization	Inconsistent use of research and language conventions
<b>D level</b> Inadequate	Limited and/or inaccurate and improperly sourced information; little research	Frequent lapses in order; few observations; limited and/or inaccurate analysis; Artificial presentation of self	Little attempt to engage reader; Limited and inconsistent overall organization	Frequent inconsistency in use of research and language conventions
<b>Below</b> Unacceptable	Inaccurate, Undone, and/or improperly sourced information	Little or no order, Almost no independent observations; Clearly inaccurate analysis; Avoidance of presentation of self	No attempt to engage reader; No rational organizational scheme	Improper or no use of research conventions; Continuous errors in use of language

## XII. CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture	Class / Topic	Readings		Assignments Due
			RBB	SR	
Jan 6	1	Course Requirements and Procedures and Course Introduction			
Jan 13	2	Religious Experience	Ch. 2 & 3	Alston and Martin, Part 2	
Jan 20	3	Relation of Faith and Reason	Ch. 4	Aquinas, Clifford, James, Kierkegaard and Pascal, Part 3	
Jan 27	4	The Attributes of God	Ch. 7	Maimonides, Aquinas, Mavrodes, Boethius and Wolterstorff in SR, Part 4	
Feb 3	5	Arguing About God	Ch. 5 and 6	Plantinga, Craig and Adams, Part 5; Plantinga, Pargetter and Hasker, Part 6	Current Issue Paper
Feb 10	6	The Problem of Evil	Ch 8 & 9	Plantinga and Rowe in SR, Part 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Summary
Feb 17		Family Day/Reading Week – No Class			
Feb 24	7	Nature of Religious Language	Ch 12	Aquinas, Tillich, Ruether and Alston, Part 9	
Mar 2	8	Miracles and Life After Death	Ch 10 & 11	Swinburne SR, Part 10 and Price, SR, Part 11	Philosophical Opinion Paper
Mar 9	9	Religion and Science	Ch 13	Gould, Dawkins and Lennox, Part 12	
Mar 16	10	Religious Pluralism	Ch 14	Griffiths, Rahner and Hick, Part 13	Major Paper
Mar 23	11	Religious Ethics	Ch 15	MacIntyre, Sartre and Aquinas, Part 14	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Summary
Mar 30	12	Religion and Postmodernism	Ch 16		Reading Log

### XIII. APPENDIX 1

This Reading Log is to be submitted on the last day of class (March 30, 2020).

NOTE: If you have not completed the readings in their entirety, please indicate what percentage you did complete.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Textbook	Percentage Read	Initials
Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion		
Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings		