Course: PHIL410 Philosophy of Religion 3 Units
Spring, 2010

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Duke 241
Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 PM on M and W; 9:30 AM-11:30 PM on Thur.

Mission Statements:
University Mission Statement: Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

Philosophy Mission Statement: The philosophy program exists to help undergraduate students become complete people who reason and think reflectively about responses to the world, liberated from inadequate concepts and actions. In specific, the program equips its majors to become effective and faithful philosophers, well prepared for further philosophical education as well as for a range of professional careers, by exposing them to the history and methods of philosophy, inspiring them to see philosophy as a tool for the discipleship of the mind, motivating them to explore philosophy further, and training them in advanced philosophical topics and analytical, reflective, and expressive skills.

Description: A study of religion from the perspective of philosophy. Both classical and contemporary issues are examined in order to move towards a more adequate understanding of religion.

Objectives:
1. Further develop skills in thinking carefully about religion.
2. Gain knowledge about the distinction between, and the relationship of, philosophy and religion.
3. Become familiar with the major concepts and perspectives in the study of the philosophy of religion.
4. Draw on personal experience to reflect and write about current issues in the philosophy of religion.

Requirements:

3. Additional assigned readings.

4. Journal with an entry for each chapter in the Peterson text.
   a. content should include questions and ideas during the reading.
   b. the journal will be checked at the beginning of first class session dealing with that chapter. It may be emailed to me prior to class time.
   c. total value is 140 pts based on percentage of entries accepted.

5. Participation in online discussion group about the Ward text.
   a. discussion will be carried on at <online.apu.edu>.
   b. each chap. will require:
      1. an entry about an idea that you find adequate and a reason why that idea is adequate or a criticism of an idea and a reason for that criticism.
      2. an entry responding to someone else’s reason for their position.
   c. initial entry will be due 24 hours before chapter is discussed in class.
   d. entry responding to someone else’s entry is due by the time that chapter is discussed in class.
   e. total value is 90 points based on the percentage of entries accepted.

6. Participation in class discussions.
   a. the basis for evaluation will be the appropriateness, adequacy, insight, and significance of statements and questions.
   b. total value will be 50 pts based on participation for entire semester. Students may request a preliminary evaluation at any point.

7. Research paper on a topic selected in consultation with professor. The paper will be an exposition and evaluation of scholarly discussions regarding a specific topic.
   a. format:
      1. will include a thesis statement regarding the topic, a survey of positions in relation to the topic, and personal conclusions about the topic.
      2. length of 20 to 25 pages typed.
      3. must be documented according to MLA style.
   b. procedures:
      1. Topic statement (10 pts) due Jan. 15.
      2. Survey of the literature (40 pts) due Feb. 5 presented in a format with 3 columns: terms, indexes/search engines, and sources and evaluated according to relevancy of articles to topic, number of appropriate terms searched, types of sources, and number of sources.
      4. Abstract summarizing the paper/argument (20 pts) due Mar. 22. An abstract should give the major points of your paper in one or two paragraphs along with any conclusions that your reach. Your abstract will be evaluated on the basis of clarity and completeness of the organization of your paper.
      5. Final copy of the paper (100 pts) presented to the professor and to student respondent due Apr. 14. Failure to present the final copy to the professor and student respondent by the start of class on April 15 will result in a 5 point penalty for each succeeding 24 hour period.
6. Papers will be presented in class on from Apr. 16-May 5.
7. Papers will be evaluated according to the accuracy of the descriptions of positions, clarity of thought, and insight into the topic.
8. An assigned written response (50 pts) to another class member’s research paper due the class period prior to the presentation of the paper.
   a. response will discuss the accuracy and helpfulness of the analysis and the adequacy of the conclusion.
   b. response will be 3-5 pp. long and typed with a copy to be given to both the author and the professor.
   c. response will be evaluated according to the fairness to the paper and insight of the comments about the paper.
9. One paper responding to one of the lectures announced on ecompion site.
   a. paper should be 2-4 pages long.
   b. paper should involve half summary and half response to the lecture.
   c. due within 4 days of the lecture.
   d. value of 15 points based upon clarity and insight.
10. Class attendance at lectures as announced by the professor.
    a. Feb. 24-25, Sophia lectures at Azusa Pacific University
    b. Mar. 4-6, Wesleyan Philosophical Society and Wesleyan Theological Society meetings at Azusa Pacific University

Policies:
1. Attendance:
   A. When an unavoidable absence occurs, the instructor must be notified before the absence. Any work that will be missed must be turned in before the absence if possible. Failure to notify the instructor prior to the absence will mean the absence was unexcused even in the case of University activities. No work, including exams, may be made up in the case of an unexcused absence.
   B. Students are responsible for any announcements, assignments, or activities during an absence.
   C. Because this course involves a great deal of student participation, more than 3 unexcused absences indicates that the student is not benefiting fully from, nor contributing to, the course. The fourth unexcused absence requires making an appointment with the instructor prior to the next class session. Failure to meet with the instructor may result in the student being dropped from the course.
   D. Arriving late or leaving early will count as 1/2 an absence.
   E. The final class session is May 1 from 9:45-11:45 AM. There will be no excused absences from this final session.

2. Azusa Pacific University Academic Integrity Policy which is followed in this course: The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is therefore part of the mission of the university to nurture in each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor, but rather as an act that is
fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. A complete copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available in the Office of Student Life, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and online.

3. Students with disabilities:
   Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure one’s full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

4. Grading is based on total points out of 535 points possible.