

Philosophy 245 / Religious Studies 246 - Philosophy of Religion
Essay Topics

Note: Treat essays as if they were reports for an employer. They must be technically well presented (e.g., concerning spelling, grammar, and print quality), clearly organized and well-written, and handed in on time.

Instructions:

- * Length: 2,500 - 3,500 (maximum) words. The essay is worth 30% of the course grade.
- * All essays must be typed and employ a consistent style for format and references, suitable to research in the humanities. **Hint:** If necessary, use a recent issue of a philosophy journal for models for style, structure and references.
- * All essays must involve a philosophical presentation and analysis of at least 2 articles or books, and a discussion and evaluation of the arguments and conclusions of these texts. **You must not use sources other than the moodle readings** and (if needed) a dictionary.

Deadline: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 – 5 pm.
No extensions will be granted without a medical certificate.

Choose one of the following topics.

1. Does the existence of (alleged) religious experience provide evidence for the existence of an all knowing, all powerful, all loving God?
2. Are there rational grounds for believing in the occurrence of miracles? Discuss reasons for and against, and evaluate these reasons.
3. Is there life after death?
4. Some philosophers have said: 'If God is dead, then everything is permitted'. Does the existence of morality require the existence of God?

Bibliography:

Readings will; be posted on the moodle site. Be sure that you provide full bibliographic information in your references.

A cautionary note concerning plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and has, as a maximum penalty, immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to ensure that both written work and oral presentations respect this regulation. In this course, assignments with any plagiarism will be given a grade of 0, there will be no opportunity to redo the assignment, and the Dean will be notified. If you have any questions on this, see me.