

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2010

Course No.: Phil 117/R1st 117 **Course Title:** Introduction to Philosophy of Religion **Units:** 3.00
Section No.: 29409/29412 **Class Hours:** 11:10am-12:35pm **Days:** TTH **Room No.:** 30-14
Instructor Name: John Wehrle, MA Phil jwehrle@charter.net www.thepursuitofwisdom.com
SPRING 2010 WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Spring Semester Begins February 16
Spring Break Holiday April 9
Spring Break April 12-16
Memorial Day Holiday May 31
Spring Semester Ends June 12

Last day to withdraw from a 16-week class
and receive a "W" is May 7th

NOTE – CLASSES WILL NOT BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: April 9 through April 16; and May 31.

STATEMENT OF ACCESS: Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and be referred to disabled student program and services per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440)

Visit Victor Valley College online at www.vvc.edu

Prerequisite:

None except eligibility for English 101.

Textbook:

Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion Fourth Edition by Peterson, Hasker, Reichenbach, and Basinger. Oxford University Press 2009. --- Henceforth referred to as "RRB"

Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings Third Edition edited by Peterson, Hasker, Reichenbach, and Basinger. Oxford University Press 2007. --- Henceforth referred to as "PR"

Course Description:

Introduction to philosophical issues raised by religious belief and practice: the existence and nature of God, the nature and possibility of religious knowledge, the meaning of religious language, and concepts of immortality and human destiny. Special attention is given to conflicts between religion and science, competing claims for religious truth, the feminist critique of traditional religion, and the relevance of religion for social ethics.

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Define the subject matter and demonstrate the method of philosophy.
2. Discuss and evaluate contrasting philosophical perspectives on the nature and existence of God.
3. Define the central philosophical issues and perspectives concerning the nature and possibility of religious knowledge.
4. Identify and discuss characteristic features of religious language as well as special problems and methods of determining its meaning.
5. Clarify and evaluate philosophically traditional concepts of religious psychology.
6. Summarize and apply philosophical methods of analysis to widely discussed and controversial topics in contemporary religious belief and practice.

Assignments:

Outlines:

Outlines will be worth 15 points each. Type and title each outline separately and turn them in based on the due dates on the Course Calendar. Outlines should equal approximately one double-spaced, 12 font page per five textbook pages of reading. This means that a 20 page reading will require approximately four pages of outline.

Outline point total: 900 points(30% of Final Grade)

Term Paper:

The Term Paper will be at least 3000 words (10 pages) in length. The term paper is an argumentative essay in which you will form and defend a thesis using as much information from our readings as possible. The topic of the term paper is: How should faith and reason interact in my life? The paper will be turned in to Turnitin.com, further details on this process will be handed out in class.

Term Paper point total: 900 points (30% of Final Grade)

Assessments:

Final Exam:

There will be one final exam on the last day of class (Thursday, June 10th) which will be open outline, NOT open book or open note. The Final Exam will mainly cover material from the second eight weeks of class and will consist of concept matching and essay questions.

Exam point total: 1200 points (40% of Final Grade)

Grade point breakdown:

90 - 100% 2700 - 3000 points A

80 - 89% 2400 - 2699 points B

70 - 79% 2100 - 2399 points C

60 - 69% 1800 - 2099 points D

0 - 59% 0 - 1799 points F

Academic Integrity Policies:

Classroom Behavior: Class time will consist of informal lectures and class discussions. These discussions may be on topics that some students feel very strongly about. I welcome everyone to voice their opinions respectfully. Students who are not respectful of others will be asked to refrain from such behavior. If that warning is not heeded, the student will be asked to leave the classroom. If the behavior continues at another class session the issue will be referred to Department Chair Dr. Lisa Ellis and the student will not be allowed to return until all issues have been resolved with her help.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is a serious abuse of my trust and counter to the entire purpose of the educational system. Unfortunately, cases of plagiarism are on the rise so I must make my policy on the matter clear. If plagiarism has occurred, the paper assignment will receive zero credit and the student may be failed from the course entirely depending upon the seriousness of

the case. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to Department Chair Dr. Lisa Ellis at which time further action will be considered.

To avoid plagiarism, always use quotation marks when using another's words verbatim. Always cite what you have quoted and what you have paraphrased or summarized. Always give credit to others for their ideas. Never make it appear that another person's ideas are your own. If you have any specific questions you may ask my advice prior to turning in your paper.

Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus.