

Module Title:	Philosophy of Religion
Module Code:	502 PPOR
Level:	5
Credit rating:	20 credits
Duration:	200 hours
Teaching hours:	40
Academic Responsibility:	Monica Tobon, PhD

Module aims:

- To encourage familiarity with current debates about philosophy of religion
- To encourage critical reflection on contemporary issues in natural theology
- To alert students to the implications which philosophical positions have for religion
- To provide an understanding of the contemporary relevance of the issues of religious theism.

Indicative Module Content:

Various kinds of arguments have been traditionally considered in philosophy of religion: ontological, cosmological, and teleological arguments, arguments from miracles, cumulative case arguments, religious epistemology and religious experience, arguments from transcendental experience, arguments based on moral experience, pragmatic arguments, and classic topics such as “Pascal’s Wager”. Special attention will be paid to the Modal Proof of Duns Scotus in *Reporta 1A* [Allan Wolter]. This will give rise to the question of the nature of proof in reference to God’s existence and will lead to an exploration of the relationship between faith and rationality. In the light of this the module will inquire into a number of issues in which faith and rationality are both brought into focus: God’s action in the world; prayer, the miraculous; religious experience; life after death; the problem of evil.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students should be able to :

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of philosophy of religion and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of philosophy of religion and philosophers working and writing in the area today.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically dialogue philosophically about language and religion and philosophy
3. Think and work creatively and intellectually and be stimulated in their search for useful knowledge and insight into the endeavours of philosophy of religion and its practical and challenging applications today especially for those who hold to a theistic belief.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through a variety of teaching methods: delivered lectures, question/discussion, power point presentation, philosophical text, response and discussion, problem setting and possible solutions from students, presentations by students (with feedback from peers), at least one of the presentations will involve the students working in groups.

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through two 2,500 word essays

Indicative Essay Titles

1. In your opinion, in the Regensburg lecture was Benedict VIth correct in his criticism of Duns Scotus on the relationship between faith and reason?
2. In your opinion how effective are the arguments of the New Atheists against the existence of God?
3. Select ONE of the Arguments for the Existence of God. Critically analyse its strengths and weaknesses and say why it is effective or non-effective as an argument.
4. Compare and contrast Aquinas's idea of analogical language and Duns Scotus teaching on the Univocity of Being and outline the advantages and disadvantages of both for discussions in Philosophy of Religion today.

Illustrative Bibliography:

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- Lockyer, N., [et al], *Philosophy of Religion* Nelson, London 2004
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- Soskice, J. M., *Metaphor and Religious Language*, Oxford, OUP 1999
- Vroom Thornes, H. M., Translated by Greidanus, M, & Greidanus, A., *A Spectrum of Worldviews: An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion in a Pluralistic World* Rodopi, 2006

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- Stump, E. and Murray, Michael J., eds. *Philosophy of Religion: The Big Questions*. London: Blackwell, 1999.