

Syllabus

PHIL 1600 – 100, 101, 103
Philosophy and Religion Fall 2019
Instructor: Scott Hill

MW 2-2:50 p.m.
HUMN 135
Teaching Assistant: Roger Conarroe

This course is an introduction to eastern and western philosophy of religion. The course will include sections on Buddhism, epistemology, ethics and aesthetics, political and religious authority, political and religious reasons, and the problem about why God allows evil.

Required Reading

I will put most reading assignments on Canvas. But there is one required text: *Liberal Politics and Public Faith* by Kevin Vallier.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by:

- Discussion: 10%
- 4 Online Exams: 10% each
- Cumulative Midterm Exam: 25%
- Cumulative Final Exam: 25%

Discussion: Each member of the class will receive two color-coded single-use cards with his or her name on them. You'll get one card for lecture with Scott and one card for recitation with Roger. Starting the second week of classes, you will be expected to use all cards once every three weeks. Here is how you use the cards: If you want to ask a question or make a comment and would like to use a card, raise that card when attempting to get called on. Once called on, Roger or Scott will collect your card. In order to get full credit in the participation category in a given three week period, each member of the class needs to use all their cards. At the beginning of each three-week period, I'll redistribute your cards. To use a card, the questions and comments need to be relevant and thoughtful. Also, to get credit for discussion over a three-week period, one must avoid use of electronic devices in class during that period. So remember to put away phones, computers, etc.

Note I: You do not need a card to ask a question or make a comment. Further discussion is welcome and encouraged! If you are out of cards you can raise your hand. We will call on people who need to use cards before we call on people who have raised their hands. But you will get plenty of opportunity to talk. The purpose of the cards is just to encourage discussion by getting everyone to talk at

least once in lecture with Scott and once in recitation with Roger every three weeks. Please do talk more than that if you want!

Note II: If you have serious social anxiety and absolutely can't talk in class, please come talk to Scott or Roger about it. We will figure out an alternative way for you to get discussion credit.

Online Exams: Four of the exams will be online and available on Canvas. You can use your notes and study together. But don't take the exam together.

Midterm Exam: This will be taken during recitation with Roger on 10/25. This exam will be on paper.

Final Exam: This will be taken in HUMN 135 on December 16th at 1:30pm. This exam will be on paper.

Note: I see that a number of students are entitled to disability accommodations relating to exams. If you are entitled to such accommodations, please talk to me (Scott) and I will ensure that you receive them.

You may withdraw (although with a W on your transcript) until midsemester.

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and honorcode.colorado.edu.

Anyone caught violating CU's academic integrity policy (in any way) will automatically receive an F for this course, and may be subject to expulsion from the university. I take cheating very seriously.

Disability Services

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from [Disability Services](#) in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability

Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see the [Temporary Injuries](#) page and discuss your needs.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Please let me know well in advance about any such conflicts, and we'll work together to resolve them. For more information about the university's policies on these matters, see colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment

We at CU Boulder are committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or

veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at hr.colorado.edu/dh/.

Office and Office Hours

Scott's Office #: N210A, Kittredge Central, North Wing, 2nd Floor

Office Hours: Monday 12pm to 1:30pm and by appointment

I especially welcome questions through email.

Scott's Email: scott.hill-1@colorado.edu . (Note: I don't check my email on evenings or weekends.)

Roger's Email: Roger.Conarroe@colorado.edu

Roger's Office Hours: by appointment

Class Schedule

(Tentative: Subject to Change)

Logic

Week 1: 8/26, 8/21, 8/30

[No Readings]

Buddhism

Week 2: 9/2, 9/4, 9/6

9/2 Labor day: No class

Graham Priest "Martial Arts and Buddhism"

Week 3: 9/9, 9/11, 9/13

Graham Priest "Compassion and the Net of Indra"

Kris McDaniel "Abhidharma Metaphysics and the Two Truths"

First Exam on 9/13

Epistemology

Week 4: 9/16, 9/18, 9/20

Clifford "The Ethics of Belief"
James "The Will to Believe"

Week 5: 9/23, 9/25, 9/27

Teresa of Avila *Interior Castle* (selected passages)
Descartes *Meditations* (selected passages)
Zhuangzi *The Zhaungzi* (selected passages)
Al-Ghazali *Refutation of the Philosophers* (selected passages)

Week 6: 9/30, 10/2, 10/4

Michael Huemer *Ethical Intuitionism* (selected passages)
Richard Feldman "Reasonable Religious Disagreements"
Second Exam on 10/4

Ethics and Aesthetics

Week 7: 10/7, 10/9, 10/11

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* (selected passages)
Confucius, *Analects* (selected passages)

Week 9: 10/14, 10/16, 10/18

Frederick Nietzsche *On the Genealogy of Morality* (selected passages)

Week 10: 10/21, 10/23, 10/25

Ian James Kidd 'Beautiful Bodhisattvas: The Aesthetics of Spiritual Exemplarity'
Julianne Chung 'Moral Cultivation: Japanese Gardens, Personal Ideals, and Ecological Citizenship'
Midterm Exam on 10/25

Political Philosophy: Part I

Week 11: 10/28, 10/30, 11/1

Mencius *The Mencius* (selected passages)
Xunzi *The Xunzi* (selected passages)

Eric Scwhitzgebel 'Moral Education in Mencius, Xunzi, Hobbes, and Rousseau'

Week 12: 11/4, 11/6, 11/8

Michael Huemer *The Problem of Political Authority* (selected passages)

Nicholas Wolterstorff, *The Mighty and the Almighty: an Essay in Political Theology* (selected passages)

Jeremy Neill and Tyler McNabb 'By Whose Authority? A Political Argument for God's Existence'

Third Exam on 11/8

Political Philosophy: Part II

Week 13: 11/11, 11/13, 11/15

Brian Leiter *Why Tolerate Religion* (selected passages)

Kevin Valler *Liberal Politics and Public Faith* (selected passages)

Week 14: 11/18, 11/20, 11/22

Brian Leiter *Why Tolerate Religion* (selected passages)

Kevin Valler *Liberal Politics and Public Faith* (selected passages)

Week 15: 11/25, 11/27, 11/29

No Class: Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break

Week 16: 12/2, 12/4, 12/6

Kevin Valler *Liberal Politics and Public Faith* (selected passages)

Fourth Exam on 12/6

The Problem of Evil

Week 17: 12/9, 12/11

John Mackie 'Evil and Omnipotence'

David Vellman 'Wellbeing and Time'

Thomas Metcalf 'The Axiological Trajectory Theodicy'

Final Exam Monday December 16th 1:30pm – 4pm