



ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION

COURSE CODE: PR300

COURSE CREDIT: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course gives an overview of some of the primary concepts in Philosophy of Religion. This course will attempt to provide an avenue for clarification and justification of important ideas and concepts in religion and religious beliefs. This branch of inquiry attempts to clarify religious beliefs and subject them to critical scrutiny. The questions that arise within religious doctrines are tested by the canons of reason.

AIM:

- To engage students in a familiarization process with major issues and concepts.
- To expose students to the diverse ethnic, cultural, historical and social traditions as they meet with religious issues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to

- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, objectively and carefully about religious claims
- Analyze philosophical issues in religion
- Address the complex questions that lie at the core of Philosophy of Religion. "What is the meaning of key religious beliefs? Which of these are defensible by reason and which are not? On what basis can we adjudicate among the conflicting revelations of the different religions?"
- Critically understand and explain cosmological and Ontological arguments

COURSE CONTENT:

- Philosophy and Religious beliefs
- Agreement for and against God's existence
- Ontological Agreement
- Cosmological Agreement
- The Problem of evil
- Experience of God
- Eternity
- Miracles and mysticism
- Morality and religion
- Life and Death/Resurrection and Immortality
- Religious pluralism
- How do we live?

COURSE TEXTS:

Audi, R. (Ed.). (1999) *The Cambridge dictionary of philosophy*. (2nd ed.). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.



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- Cahn, S. M. (2008). *Exploring philosophy of religion: An introductory anthology*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Davies, B. (2004). *An introduction to the philosophy of religion*. (3rd.ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hick, J. (1990). *Philosophy of religion*. (4th ed.). Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Hick, J. H. (1990) *Classical and contemporary readings in philosophy of religion*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Honderich, T.. (Ed.). (1995). *The Oxford companion to philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Pinn, A.B.(1995). *Why Lord?: Suffering and evil in black theology*. New York: Continuum.
- Vaughn, L. (2005). *Writing philosophy: A student guide to writing philosophy essays*. New York: Oxford University Press.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Lectures
Discussion
Journal writing
Group debate

COURSE ASSESSEMENT:

Attendance and participation	10%
2 Exams (25% each)	50%
Research paper	40%
TOTAL	100%

All of lecture, discussion and reading content are examinable. There will be possible questions for each exam to help focus as regards areas of study. Exams will mostly be short answers and short essay questions.

The research paper will pursue in greater detail a topic that the student finds interesting and relevant.