



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Theism and Atheism - 15229

Last update 20-08-2019

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dan Baras, Aaron Segal

Coordinator Email: aaron.segal1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Dan Baras: By appointment.

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Dan Baras
Dr. Aaron Segal

Course/Module description:

Does God exist? This is the question we will be discussing in this course. In the course we will engage with contemporary analytic philosophy on this topic. We will discuss arguments for and against and we will discuss whether arguments are even needed to justify a belief on this issue.

Course/Module aims:

- 1. To study in depth the topic of the course.*
- 2. Generally, to improve the abilities of students to engage in critical thinking about philosophical questions.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Explain views and central arguments for and against theism.

Formulate clear and reasoned critiques of the reading materials and to develop a personal view.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures and reading assignments

Course/Module Content:

The following list is tentative and will be updated nearer to the spring term:

How can religious beliefs be justified? Arguments or other means?

Is Atheism the default position?

What / who is god?

Arguments for the existence of god: Ontological, cosmological and teleological.

Arguments against the existence of god: Evil, silence.

Required Reading:

We will read articles and book excerpts from some of the following philosophers:

Marilyn McCord Adams, William Alston, Lara Buchak, William Clifford, Evan Fales, Jerome (Yehuda) Gellman, Alan Hajek, John Hawthorne, John Hick, David Hume, William James, Robert Koons, Yujin Nagasawa, Graham Oppy, Blaise Pascal, Alvin Plantinga, Phillip Quinn, Michael Rea, William Rowe, Bertrand Russell, J.L. Schellenberg, Jordan Sobel, Jeff Speaks, Eleonore Stump, Peter van Inwagen, Roger White

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 80 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 20 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: