

PHILOSOPHY 204

Dr. Michael D. Rich
Office: Trinity 116
Phone: 898-4186
Hours: MWF 9:00-9:50
TTH 10:00-10:50

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jesus: Apocalyptic Prophet of the New Millennium, by Ehrman

There is a packet at Mr. Kopy (on Main Street next to 7-11) that you will be required to purchase and bring to class daily. You will need to get it immediately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will be examining various questions in the Philosophy of Religion. We will examine the traditional arguments in favor of a belief in God (the cosmological, and teleological arguments, in addition to the argument from religious experience). We will examine the main argument against a belief in the existence of God (the argument from evil). We will discuss the attributes of God, and the question of death and immortality. Finally, we will examine the Christian Gospels to determine the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and whether these are consistent with orthodox Christian doctrine. This course meets the Sub-area C3 General Education requirement.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be periodic reading assignments. There will also be periodic written (homework) assignments. The written assignments will be due at the BEGINNING of the subsequent class meeting. The assignments will be collected at the beginning of the hour. An assignment is considered late if it is not turned in when the assignments are requested. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** This policy is meant to insure that the student is present and ready to begin work when the class begins. (If you feel that you have an extremely compelling excuse, you may see me at my office. I refuse to address such issues in the classroom.)

I will not collect all homework assignments. The homework assignments will be collected at RANDOM. You will not know when I am going to collect an assignment. Therefore, you will want to have every assignment completed and ready to turn in when class begins. Sometimes you will do an assignment and it will be collected. Sometimes you will do an assignment and it will not be collected. Some students may become frustrated with this policy. This will provide you the opportunity to learn how to deal with your negative emotions.

The purpose of the homework is to prepare you for in-class discussions, and to help you prepare for quizzes and tests. At least some of the essay questions on the tests will come directly from the homework. The General Education writing requirement will be met through the daily homework assignments.

In grading the assignment, I am not concerned with your having the correct answer for every question. Some of the readings and questions are quite difficult. You will not be able to answer all of the questions correctly. What is important is that you have attempted to answer every question. In order to receive full credit, you must have an answer for every question assigned. If any question is left unanswered, you will receive no credit for that assignment.

EXAMS: There will be two tests: a mid-term and a final. The final will be a comprehensive exam. The scheduling of the mid-term will depend on how quickly the class is able to work through the course material. The mid-term will be announced at least three class meetings in advance (more likely two weeks in advance).

QUIZZES: There MAY also be quizzes on the lectures at any point in the semester. Some of these quizzes will be announced, some will be unannounced.

GRADING:

(a) Written assignments (homework) will be worth 5 points each. (Nothing will lower your grade faster than failing to turn in the homework.)

(b) Quizzes will be worth between 10 and 20 points.

© The mid-term will be worth 100 points.

(d) The final exam will be worth between 120 to 180 points.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE: (1) Keep up with all reading assignments (even the ones that you do not understand); (2) **complete and save all homework assignments**; (3) keep detailed lecture notes; (4) correct all homework assignments from your notes; (5) **read through your lecture notes at least three times a week**; (6) be certain that you could explain all the points made in the lectures if asked; (7) be able to relate the lectures back to the readings; (8) **even if not asked directly, make sure you can answer every question asked by the instructor in class**; (9) ask question in class on anything you do not understand, or see the instructor at his office hours; (10) **do not miss a single class, even if it means walking in late (even the people who are in class will not understand everything, if you are not here, you will be lost)**; (11) form a study group for the mid-term and final; (12) **get someone's telephone number** in case you miss a class and need to get an assignment or notes.