Part I

Course Title: Faith and Reason 信仰與理由
Course Code: GEF1009
Department: CRSE
Credit Point: 3
Contact Hours: 39
Pre-requisite(s): GEE1001

Part II

Synopsis
This course aims at exploring religions with a philosophical approach. By studying a number of controversial religious doctrines, the relationship between religious beliefs and reasoning as found in various traditions will be critically examined. Examples of religious questions to be examined include whether it is possible for human beings to know who God is; whether God exists; whether religious experience is justifiable; and whether religious belief is only a personal and arbitrary matter. How about the phenomenological realities of “self” or the “soul”, and of the Evil? Did or does the all-powerful and all-loving God creates or created evil? The soundness of the reasoning leading to various answers to the above questions will be examined. This will illustrate the perennial significance of philosophizing in the formulation and perpetuation of religious beliefs. That is, this course seeks to clarify the relationship between religious beliefs and reasoning. It will deepen one’s appreciation of the relations between Reason and Faith. As a result, students will be enabled to come up with their own justifiable understanding about the nature of religion and religious beliefs and their position in the social and the transcendental aspects of human life as observable across cultural traditions.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

- CILO1 Understand the basic definitions and concerns of philosophy of religion
- CILO2 Analyze some controversial religious doctrines from a philosophical perspective
• CILO3 Ponder the importance of philosophizing towards religion itself
• CILO4 Carry own critical reflections and positions for the above

Content and Teaching & Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Content</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Teaching &amp; Learning Activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Definitions and meaning of philosophy of religion, including the determination of religious beliefs as meaningful or not, differentiating reason and excuse, examination on the relationship between religious faiths, experience and rationality and the justification of religious doctrines</td>
<td>CILO1, CILO3</td>
<td>Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation</td>
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<td>b. Examination on a number of controversial religious doctrines, such as is it really possible for human beings to know who God is? Does God exist? Why and Why not? Does the all-powerful and all-loving God create evil? Is religious experience justifiable? Is religious belief only a personal matter?</td>
<td>CILO2, CILO3, CILO4</td>
<td>Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation; guided reading of selected sacred texts in class</td>
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<td>c. Significance of philosophizing about religion to religious beliefs, that is, to clarify the relationship between religious beliefs and reasoning, to consolidate the rational grounds for religious beliefs and to examine the applicability of reasoning to religious beliefs</td>
<td>CILO2, CILO3, CILO4</td>
<td>Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation</td>
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Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>CILOs</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Participation in in-class activities</td>
<td>CILO1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Presentation on selected topics</td>
<td>CILO1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4</td>
<td>40%</td>
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c. An Essay (2000 words) on selected topics related to the course. The topic should be approved by the instructor.

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<tr>
<th>CILO_1</th>
<th>CILO_2</th>
<th>CILO_3</th>
<th>CILO_4</th>
<th>50%</th>
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**Required Text(s):** Nil

**Recommended Readings:**


Related Web Resources: Nil
Related Journals: Nil