

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: General Education
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Faith and Reason
Course Code	: GEF1009
Department	: International Education and Lifelong Learning (IELL)
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: EMI/ CMI
Course Level	: 1

Part II

The University's 4Cs Learning Framework and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important attributes embodied in the 4Cs.

The 4Cs are:

- Character and moral responsibility
- Competence and professional excellence
- Cultivation of wisdom and intellectual engagement
- Civic-mindedness & social responsibility

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. 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 create evil? As such, 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. The students will be enabled to come up with their own justifiable understanding about the nature of religion and religious beliefs and their positions in the social and the transcendental aspects of human life as observable across cultural traditions.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 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

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Teaching Content	CILOs	Teaching & Learning Activities
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	CILO ₁ , CILO ₃	Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation
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?	CILO ₂ , CILO ₃ , CILO ₄	Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation; guided reading of selected sacred texts in class
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	CILO ₂ , CILO ₃ , CILO ₄	Lecture, Tutorial Discussion and Group Presentation

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILOs
a. Participation in in-class activities	10%	CILO _{1, 2, 3, 4}
b. Presentation on selected topics	40%	CILO _{1, 2, 3, 4}
c. An Essay (2000 words) on selected topics related to the course. The topic should be approved by the instructor.	50%	CILO _{1, 2, 3, 4}

5. Required Text(s)

Nil

6. Recommended Readings

- Ahmed, A. S. (2001). *Islam today: a short introduction to the muslim world*. London: I.B. Tauris Publishers.
- Grayling, C.A. (2014). *The God Argument: The Case against Religion and for Humanism*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Gülen, M. F. (c2006.). *The essentials of the Islamic faith*. (A. Ünal, Trans.) Somerset, N.J.: Light.
- Høyrup, J. (2000). A New Approach: Theories about the Scientific Process. In J. Høyrup, *Human Sciences: Reappraising the Humanities Through History and Philosophy*. New York: State University of New York. (pp. 277-317).
- Immanuel, Kant. (1960). *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*. New York: Harper.
- James, William. (1982). *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Keown, D. (2000). *Buddhism: A very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Khan A. (2003). *Islam 101: Principles and Practice*. San Jose, CA: Khan Consulting and Publishing, LLC.
- Kohn, L., & Miller, J. (c2001). Ultimate Reality: Chinese Religion. In R. C. Neville (Ed.), *Ultimate realities: A volume in the Comparative Religious Ideas Project*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Lloyd, G. E. (2009). Chapter 7: Religion. In G. E. Lloyd, *Disciplines in the Making* Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 137-152).
- Lloyd, G. E. (2009). Chapter 8: Science. In G. E. Lloyd, *Disciplines in the Making* Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 153-172).
- Magee, Bryan. (1997). *Confessions of a Philosopher*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
- Nielsen Jr, N. C. et al. (Ed.). (1993). *Religions of the World* (3rd ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Peterson, M., Hasker, W., Reichenbach, B. & Basinger D. (2014). Religious Language: How can we speak meaningfully of God? In Peterson, M., et al., *Reason & Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* (5th ed.). New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 263-290).
- Peterson, M., Hasker, W., Reichenbach, B. & Basinger D. (2014). Miracles: Does God intervene in earthly affairs? & Religious Diversity: How can we understand differences among religions? In Peterson, M., et al., *Reason & Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion* (5th ed.). New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 207-228 & 319-343).
- Rowe, W. L. (2007). Miracles and the Modern World View & Many Religions. In Rowe, W. L., *Philosophy of Religion* (4th ed.). Singapore: Thomson Wadsworth. (pp. 133-146 & 178-191).

17. Rowe, W. L. (2007). Religious and Mystical Experience. In Rowe, W. L., *Philosophy of Religion* (4th ed.). Singapore: Thomson. (pp. 69-90).
18. Wadsworth.Russell, Peter. (2004). *From Science to God: A Physicist's Journey into the Mystery of Consciousness*.
19. Sharma, A. (Ed.). (2011). *The world's religions: A contemporary reader*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press.
20. Smith, H. (1994). *The illustrated world's religions: A guide to our wisdom traditions*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco.
21. Smith, H., & Marranca, R. (2009). *The world's religions*. New York: HarperOne.
22. Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M. (2014). Faith and Reason: Grounds for Believing. In Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M., *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (pp. 87-98).
23. Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M. (2014). God. In Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M., *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (pp. 65-105).
24. Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M. (2014). Self. In Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M., *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (pp. 185-221).
25. Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M. (2014). The Problem of Evil. In Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M., *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (pp. 83-88).
26. Van Doren, C. L. (1991). *A History of Knowledge: Past, Present, and Future*. New York: Ballantine Books.
27. Van Fraassen, B. C. (1980). *The Scientific Image*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
28. Velasquez, M. (1997). *Philosophy: A Text with Readings*. New York: Wadsworth Publishing Company.
29. Wainwright, W. J. (Ed.). (2007). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
30. Westphal, J. (1998). *Philosophical Propositions: An Introduction to Philosophy*. New York: Routledge.
31. Smith, H. (劉安雲譯) (2013) 《人的宗教》，台北：立緒文化事業有限公司。
32. Westphal, J. (鐘殊茂、周伯恒譯) (1999) 《哲學入門》，台北：韋伯文化事業出版社。
33. 吳汝鈞 (2013)《宗教世界與世界宗教》，台北：台灣學生書局。(頁 107-120;203-222)。
34. 呂鵬志 (2000)《道教哲學》，台北市：文津出版社。第十章：道教的理想與實踐的方法；第十八章：道家宗教意涵。
35. 李亦園 (1998)《宗教與神話論集》，台北：立緒文化事業有限公司。
36. 章力生 (1986)《人文主義批判》，香港：基道書樓有限公司。
37. 喬治·桑塔亞納著，猶家仲譯(2008)《宗教中的理性》，北京：北京大學出版社。
38. 寒哲著，胡亞非譯(2000)《與思想家對話》，香港：中華書局。第五章：宗教。(頁 217-242)。
39. 路易斯·P·波伊曼著，黃瑞成譯 (2007)《宗教哲學》，北京：中國人民大學出版社。
40. 羅伯特·所羅門著，張卜天譯(2004)《大問題：簡明哲學導論》，桂林：廣西師範大學出版社。

7. Related Web Resources

Nil

8. Related Journals

Nil

9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others