

INFORMATION TO GIVE TO YOUR CLASS AT THE FIRST MEETING

It is boring and numbingly bureaucratic to begin a course on a topic you love with the rules, requirements, and so forth of your syllabus. Begin instead with passion about your subject and an exciting introduction to the goals of the course.

When you do get to the rules, present the students with a syllabus that includes at least the following:

- Instructor's name, course call number, descriptive title, and catalog number.
- Instructor's office number, University phone number, e-mail address, and office hours.
- The basis for grading in the course.
- A calendar of assignments, due dates, reading assignments, labs, and so forth.
- The instructor's attendance policy and the penalty for academic dishonesty.

A good sample syllabus follows.

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

PHIL 260: Philosophy of Religion

(Call No. 4108)

1 – 3 T TH, Gordy 313

Professor: John Smith

Fall Quarter

Text

The textbook for this course is Exploring the Philosophy of Religion, Prentice-Hall, 1980.

Requirements

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with major issues in the philosophy of religion and to assist you in coming to your own view on these important topics. Major emphasis will be placed on reading and understanding the material from the textbook prior to class discussion. Although I do not require class attendance, I will check roll and will use consistent attendance as a positive factor in determining grades for students on the borderline between grades.

Grades will be based on the following:

1. In-class examinations on October 2 and October 28, each of which counts 30% of your grade.

Students who, with prior approval, miss a scheduled exam will be required to do three short papers (approximately 5 pages in length) as their make-up. A list of topics will be available before the first mid-term exam.

2. Final examination: Monday, November 24, 10:10 a.m., which counts 40% of your mid-term exam.

Office Hours

Office Hours: 1 – 3 Monday, Wednesday and Friday; other hours by appointment

Office Location: Long Hall 200

Academic Conduct

Cheating on examinations, submitting work of other students as your own, or plagiarism in any form will result in penalties ranging from an F on the assignment to expulsion from the university, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

READING SCHEDULE

(Revised)

Philosophy of Religion

(All readings, unless otherwise noted, are in your textbook.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept. 11	Introduction to Philosophy of Religion, pp. 1-8
Sept. 16	<u>Religious Experience</u> : pp 9-13; Mysticism (handout) Otto, pp. 20-33
Sept. 18	Buber and Berger, pp. 34-60
Sept. 23	<u>Arguments for God's Existence</u> : Ontological Argument, pp. 63-76
Sept. 25	Cosmological and Design Arguments, pp. 77-99
Sept. 30	Moral Argument; <u>Faith and Reason</u> Introduction pp. 100-117
Oct. 2	Flew and Lewis, pp. 118-145
Oct. 7	Review
Oct. 9	First Exam
<i>Oct. 14</i>	<i>Last Day to Drop This Class</i>
Oct. 14	Kierkegaard and James, pp. 146-176
Oct. 16	<u>Religious Language</u> : Introduction; Ayer-Copleston debate, pp. 179-199
Oct. 21	Symbolism, analogy, pp. 200-225
Oct. 23	Ricoeur on metaphor; pp. 226-239
Oct. 28	<u>Problem of Evil</u> : Introduction; Hick, pp. 245-262
Oct. 30	Madden & Hare; Mill, pp. 263-284
Nov. 4	Lewis; <u>Death and Human Destiny</u> ; Intro and Russell, pp. 285-310
Nov. 6	Second Exam
Nov. 11	Paul; Hick; Moody, pp. 311-339
Nov. 13	<u>Religion and Ethics</u> : Nietzsche, pp. 343-354
Nov. 18	Nielsen and Tillich, pp. 355-377
<u>Nov. 24</u>	<u>Final Exam: Monday, 10:10 a.m.</u>