

## **CURE 2113 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION** (2<sup>nd</sup> term 2024-25)

Lecturer: Prof. Lai Pan-chiu (KKL 317, [pclai@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:pclai@cuhk.edu.hk), Tel: 39436465);

Tutor: TBA

Venue: Lecture: Y C Laing Hall G06, Monday 10:30-12:15

Tutorial: Y C Laing Hall G01 & G06, Monday 12:30-1:15

**Brief:** This course aims at introducing the students to the philosophical issues related to the religious phenomena, including religious beliefs, religious language, religious experience, religious pluralism, religious ethics, etc. It adopts a critical as well as comparative approach, make references to various religious traditions, including particularly Christianity and Buddhism.

### **Learning Incomes**

#### Knowledge Incomes

1. Basic knowledge of the philosophical issues related to the religious phenomena;
2. Basic knowledge of major theories and schools of thought in Philosophy of Religion;

#### Skills Incomes

1. Understanding, analyzing and criticizing an argument philosophically;
2. Articulating one's own argument with consistency, coherence and persuasiveness;
3. Making comparison between religions academically;

#### Attitude Incomes

1. Respect the differences among religions, worldviews, philosophical presuppositions and cultures.
2. Being reflexive and critical to one's own position.

### **Learning Activities**

Each student is expected to:

1. Attend the lectures and participate in the discussion;
2. Read beforehand the readings to be discussed at the tutorials;
3. Attend the tutorials and participate actively;
4. Make a presentation on one of the readings at the tutorial group, and submit to the tutor an outline of the presentation 2 days after the presentation;
5. Submit a term paper (on a topic different from the tutorial presentation) to the Blackboard (with a signed VeriGuide form) before **28 April 2025**, 5:00 p.m.  
Penalty for Late Submission: 6% for every 24 hours.
6. Attend an oral discussion on the paper submitted on **6 May 2025**.

## Schedule

Dates	Topics
6/1	Lecture 1: Introduction – Philosophy, Religion & Philosophy of Religion
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 賴品超，〈宗教多元視野下的宗教哲學：反思希克前後的宗教哲學〉，《道風》37 (2012 秋)，頁 21-44。 (On-line access: <a href="https://www.iscs.org.hk/Template/Shared//Books/PeviewFile/LPJ037/LPJ037_02.pdf">https://www.iscs.org.hk/Template/Shared//Books/PeviewFile/LPJ037/LPJ037_02.pdf</a>; alternative on-line access through CU library)</li> <li>2. David Webster, “Buddhist Approaches – Not ‘What?’ But ‘How?’,” <i>Contemporary Practice and Method in the Philosophy of Religion</i>, Cheetham &amp; King eds. (2008), 87-100. (e-book, CU library)</li> <li>3. Philip Goodchild, “The Reasonableness of Philosophy of Religion,” <i>Contemporary Practice and Method in the Philosophy of Religion</i>, Cheetham &amp; King eds. (2008), 188-203. (e-book, CU library)</li> </ol>
13/1	Lecture 2: Religion and the Ultimate Reality
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. George Mavrodes, “Some Puzzles concerning Omnipotence,” <i>Philosophical Review</i> 72.2 (1963): 221-223: <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2183106.pdf">https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2183106.pdf</a>; 中譯《當代西方宗教哲學》，459-462.</li> <li>5. Chad Meister, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 2 Concepts of God / Ultimate Reality”, 19-37. (e-book, CU library)</li> <li>6. 賴品超，〈從佛教反思基督宗教上帝觀：取道保羅·蒂利希的「終極關切」〉，《輔仁宗教研究》26 (2013 春)，91-119。 (On-line access: <a href="http://www.rsd.fju.edu.tw/images/uploads/FJRS/26-07.pdf">http://www.rsd.fju.edu.tw/images/uploads/FJRS/26-07.pdf</a> )</li> </ol>
	<p>Tutorial: Open discussion and arrangement of presentation in the first two weeks. Formal presentation starts from the third week.</p>
20/1	Lecture 3: Arguments for the Existence of God
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Bertrand Russell &amp; F. C. Copleston, “Debate The Existence of God (1948)”, Audio: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz2GjKPbQds">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz2GjKPbQds</a>; Transcript: <a href="http://www.scandalon.co.uk/philosophy/cosmological_radio.htm">http://www.scandalon.co.uk/philosophy/cosmological_radio.htm</a>; 中譯《西方宗教哲學文選》，58-70.</li> <li>8. Alvin Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 2 Grounds for Belief in God”, 25-39. (Blackboard)</li> <li>9. Chad Meister, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 3 Arguments about the Existence of God”, 58-59. (e-book, CU library)</li> </ol>
27/1	Lecture 4: Arguments for and Against the Existence of God

	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>10. Richard Creel, <i>Philosophy of Religion: The Basics</i>, “Chapter 6 The Ontological Argument”, 77-87. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>11. 賴品超，〈重讀聖安瑟倫對上帝存在的本體論論證：一個跨文化的視角〉，林宏星、林暉主編，《復旦哲學評論·第二輯》（上海：上海辭書出版社，2005），頁 111-125。(Blackboard)</p> <p>12. Roe Fremstedal, “The Moral Argument for the Existence of God and Immortality: Kierkegaard and Kant,” <i>The Journal of Religious Ethics</i> 41.1 (March 2013), 50-78. (On-line access through CU library)</p> <p>13. Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 3 Grounds for Disbelief in God”, 40-51.</p>
10/2	Lecture 5: Divine Action and Miracle (Guest Lecture by Dr. Kung Wai Han)
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>14. David Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>, “Sec. X: Miracles”, pp.119-147. (e-book, CU library); Chinese version 《人類理解研究》(1972).</p> <p>15. Michael P. Levine, “Philosophers on Miracles,” in <i>The Cambridge Companion to Miracles</i>, edited by Graham H. Twelftree (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 291-308. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>16. Nicholas Saunders, <i>Divine Action and Modern Science</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), “The laws of nature and miracles”, 48-82. (e-book, CU library)</p>
17/2	Lecture 6: Problem of Evil
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>17. Fyodor Dostoyevsky, “Rebellion” &amp; “The Grand Inquisitor”, in: <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>, book 5, chapters 4 &amp; 5; (e-book, CU library); 杜斯妥也夫斯基著，耿濟之中譯，《卡拉馬助夫兄弟們》，289-300, 301-322.</p> <p>18. Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 4 The Problem of Evil”, 52-72. (Blackboard)</p> <p>19. 賴品超，〈休謨《自然宗教對話錄》第十至十一章：一個跨文化的解讀〉，《哲學門·總第十四輯》北京：北京大學出版社，2006），頁 97-123。(Blackboard)</p>
24/2	Lecture 7: Religious Language
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>20. Paul Tillich, “Religious Language as Symbolic,” <i>Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings</i>, Petersen et al eds. (1996), 357-365; 中譯《當代西方宗教哲學》，574-585. (Blackboard)</p> <p>21. Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 6 The Problem of Religious Language”, 105-127. (Blackboard)</p> <p>22. Graeme Marshall, “The Problem of Religious Language ‘Look at it this way’ (Wittgenstein),” <i>Sophia</i> 51 (2012), 479-493. (On-line access through CU library)</p>
10/3	Lecture 8: Faith and Reason (including: Religion & Science)
	Readings for Tutorial:

	<p>23. Creel, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 15 Rationality without Evidence”, 185-193. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>24. Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 5 Revelation and Faith”, 73-104. (Blackboard)</p> <p>25. John Worrall &amp; Del Ratzsh, “Does Science Discredit Religion?,” <i>Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Religion</i>, Petersen &amp; Van Arragon eds. (2004), 59-94. (to be presented by 2 students) (Blackboard)</p>
17/3	Lecture 9: Religion & Morality
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>26. Kai Nielsen, “Ethics without Religion,” <i>Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings</i>, Peterson et al eds. (1996), 536-544. (Blackboard)</p> <p>27. Gay L. Garfield, <i>Engaging Buddhism</i>, “Chapter 9 Ethics”, 278-317. (On line access through CU library)</p> <p>28. Cottingham, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 4 Morality”, 72-97. (On line access through CU library)</p>
24/3	Lecture 10: Religious Experience & Prayer
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>29. Wayne Proudfoot, “Religious Experience as Interpretive Accounts,” <i>Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings</i>, Peterson et al eds. (1996), 30-41. (Blackboard)</p> <p>30. Vincent Brümmer, <i>What Are We Doing When We Pray?</i> (London: Routledge, 2016), “Chapter 5 Prayer and the Agency of God”. (On-line access through CU library)</p> <p>31. Brümmer, <i>What Are We Doing When We Pray?</i>, “Chapter 9 The Eyes of Faith”.</p> <p>32. Eleonore Stump, “Petitionary Prayer”, <i>American Philosophical Quarterly</i> 16.2 (Apr., 1979), 81-91. (On-line access through CU library) [also in: Stump &amp; Murray (ed.) 1999.]</p>
31/3	Lecture 11: Religious Diversity
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>33. John Hick, “Towards a Philosophy of Religious Pluralism,” <i>Neue Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie</i>, 22.1-3 (1980), 131-149. (On-line access through CU library)</p> <p>34. Kelly James Clark, “Chapter 7 Pluralism and Proper Function”, <i>Alvin Plantinga</i>, Deanne-Peter Baker ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 168-182. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>35. 賴品超，〈宗教比較學、神經科學與多維度的拯救：再思宗教多樣與宗教對話〉，<i>Ching Feng (New Series)</i> 《景風》 17.1-2 (2018): 93-116. (open access)</p>
7/4	Lecture 12: Life After Death
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>36. Meister, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 6 Death and the Afterlife”, 96-112. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>37. Sharma, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>, “Chapter 9 Human Destiny: Immortality and Resurrection”, 153-165. (Blackboard)</p> <p>38. Lindsey Hall, “Chapter 17 Hell and the God of Love: Universalism in the Philosophy of John Hick,” <i>“All Shall Be Well”: Explorations in Universal</i></p>

	<i>Salvation and Christian Theology from Origen to Moltmann</i> , Gregory MacDonald ed. (Cambridge: James Clark & Co, 2011), 400-416. (e-book, CU library)
14/4	Lecture 13: Prospect of Philosophy of Religion (inter-disciplinary)
	<p>Readings for Tutorial:</p> <p>39. Nancey Murphy, “MacIntyre, Tradition-Dependent Rationality and the End of Philosophy of Religion,” <i>Contemporary Practice and Method in the Philosophy of Religion</i>, Cheetham &amp; King eds. (2008), 32-44. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>40. David Cheetham, “Comparative Philosophy of Religion,” <i>Contemporary Practice and Method in the Philosophy of Religion</i>, Cheetham &amp; King eds. (2008), 101-116. (e-book, CU library)</p> <p>41. Helen de Cruz and Johan de Smedt, <i>A Natural History of Natural Theology</i> (2015), chapter 5 The Cosmological Argument and Intuitions about Causality and Agency, 85-108.</p> <p>42. Helen de Cruz and Johan de Smedt, <i>A Natural History of Natural Theology</i> (2015), chapter 6 The Moral Argument in the Light of Evolutionary Ethics, 109-130.</p>
28/4	Submission of Term Paper
6/5	Oral Discussion on the Term Paper Submitted

**Assessment:** 30% Tutorial Presentation & Participation  
60% Term Paper  
10% Oral Discussion on the Term Paper submitted (Chat PC)

### Grade Descriptors

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

### References (\* - with text(s) for tutorial)

(Please note that some of the references mentioned below may have a newer edition.)

### **General Introduction:**

1. Creel, Richard E. *Philosophy of Religion: The Basics*. Somerset: John Wiley & Sons, 2013. (e-book, CU library)
2. Davies, Brian. *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993. (BL51 D363)
3. Hick, John. *Philosophy of Religion*. Fourth Edition. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1990. (BR51 H494 1990) 何光滙（據英文 1973 年再版）中譯，1988。
4. Mann, William E. (ed.). *The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2005.
5. Meister, Chad. *Philosophy of Religion*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. (e-book, CU library)
6. Meister, Chad & Paul Copan (eds.). *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion*. London: Routledge, 2007. (BL51 .R5984 2007)
7. Peterson, Michael & et al. *Reason & Religious Belief*. Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. (BL51.R326 1998) Third Edition 2003; 孫毅、游斌中譯，《理性與宗教信念—宗教哲學導論（第三版）》，2005。(BL51 .R32612 2005)
8. Pojman, Louis P. *Philosophy of Religion*. Mountain View: Mayfield, 2001. (BL51 P577 2001) 黃瑞成中譯，《宗教哲學》，2006;《宗教哲學是甚麼》，2014。
9. Rowe, William. *Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction*. Third Edition. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2001. (BL51 R5988 1993)
10. Taliaferro, Charles. *Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998. (BL51. T35 1998)
11. Thiselton, Antony C. *Approaching Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction to Key Thinkers, Concepts, Methods, and Debates*. London: SPCK, 2017. (e-book, CU library)
12. Tilghman, B. R. *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994. (BL51 T55 1994)
13. Wainwright, William J. (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
14. Yandell, Keith. *Philosophy of Religion*. London: Routledge, 1999.

### **Introduction in Chinese:**

1. 單純：《宗教哲學》。北京：中國社會科學出版社，2003。
2. 單純：《當代西方宗教哲學》。北京：中國社會科學出版社，2004。
3. 王志成：《全球宗教哲學》。北京：宗教文化出版社，2005。
4. 張志剛：《宗教哲學研究》。北京：中國人民大學出版社，2003。

### **Edited Readings / Anthologies:**

1. Clark, Kelly James. *Readings in the Philosophy of Religion*. New York: Broadview Press, 2000. (BL 51 R32 2000)
2. Davies, Brian (ed.). *Philosophy of Religion: A Guide and Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. (BL51 P5316 2000)
3. Hick, John (ed.). *Classical and Contemporary Readings in the Philosophy of Religion*. Third Edition. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1990. (BL51 C558 1990)
4. Peterson, Michael & et al (eds.). *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Second edition 2001. (BL51. P545 2001)
5. Peterson, Michael L. & Raymond J. Van Arragon (eds.). *Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Religion*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004. (BL51 .C63682 2004)
6. Pojman, Louis P. (ed.). *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*. Second Edition. Belmont: Wadsworth, 1994. (BL51 P532 1994)
7. Rowe, W. & W. J. Wainwright (eds.). *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989. (BL512 P59 1989)
8. Stewart, Melville Y. *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology of Contemporary Views*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 1996. (BL51 P533 1996) \* 中譯：邁爾威利·斯圖沃德著，周偉馳、胡自信及吳增定譯：《當代西方宗教哲學》。北京：北京大學出版社，2001。(BL51. P53312 2001)
9. Shatz, David. *Philosophy and Faith: A Philosophy of Religion Reader*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002. (BL51 P5256 2002)
10. Stump, Eleonore & Murray, Michael J. (eds.). *Philosophy of Religion: the Big Questions*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999. (BL51 P5453 1999)
11. Taliaferro, Charles, P. Draper, and P. L. Quinn (eds.). *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. (BL51 .C634)
12. 胡景鍾、張慶熊主編，尹大貽等譯：《西方宗教哲學文選》。上海：上海人民出版社，2002。(BL 51. X52 2002) \*

### **Method / Approach**

- 1 Cheetham, David and Rolfe King (eds.), *Contemporary Practice and Method in the Philosophy of Religion*. London: Continuum, 2008. (e-book, CU library)\*
- 2 Clayton, John. *Religions, Reasons and Gods: Essays in Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- 3 Cottingham, John. *Philosophy of Religion: Towards a More Humane Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. (e-book, CU library)
- 4 De Cruz, Helen and Johan de Smedt, *A Natural History of Natural Theology: The Cognitive Science of Theology and Philosophy of Religion*. Cambridge, MA /

London, England: The MIT Press, 2015. (e-book, CU library) \*

- 5 Runzo, Joseph. *Global Philosophy of Religion. A Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2001. (BL51 R675 2001)
- 6 Wildman, Wesley J. *Religious Philosophy as Multidisciplinary Comparative Enquiry: Envisioning a Future for the Philosophy of Religion*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010.

### **Buddhism and Philosophy:**

1. Emmanuel, Steven M. (ed.). *A Companion to Buddhist Philosophy*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley Blackwell, 2013, paperback 2016.
2. Garfield, Jay L. *Engaging Buddhism: Why It Matters to Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. (e-book, CU library)
3. Panjvani, Cyrus. *Buddhism: A Philosophical Approach*. Peterborough, Ontario, Canada: Broadview, 2014.
4. Sharma, Arvind. *The Philosophy of Religion: A Buddhist Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. \* (Chinese version 2006.)
5. Siderits, Mark. *Buddhism as Philosophy: An Introduction*. Hants, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2007.

### **Journals Specializing in Philosophy of Religion**

*Religious Studies*;

*International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*;

*Faith and Philosophy*,

*Sophia*,

*Philosophia Christi*,

*International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*,

*Neue Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie*.

### **Useful Electronic Databases** (available at CU library)

*ATLA Religion Database*

*Philosopher's Index*

Updated 04-11-2024