

*Syllabus for PHIL 347, Fall 2025*

**Philosophy of Religion**

*Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal*

*Latest update: June 24, 2025*

**1. Course Description.** The course is concerned with some main philosophical questions pertaining to belief in God (theism) and rejection of belief in God (atheism), including: i) The main philosophical arguments for theism (especially the cosmological, teleological and ontological arguments); ii) The main arguments against theism (especially the argument from evil).

**2. Lectures.** MWF

**3. Instructor.** Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca)

**4. Instructor Office Hours.** TBA

**5. Instructor Email Policy.** Instructor will reply to emails weekdays, typically within 48h

**6. Teaching Assistant.** TBA (TA will be marking exams and papers.)

**7. Required Texts.** Anders Kraal: *The problem of God in David Hume* (Cambridge UP). Additional material (PDF's) will be uploaded on Canvas.

**8. Course Requirements**

*Midterms (x3).* These exams are worth 25% each. They are written via Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser. Questions may occur in random order, and in different order for different students, and you will not be able to see all the questions at once, and you cannot go back and revise an answer to a question which has been submitted. If you miss one or more of these exams, for any reason, the weight will automatically be transferred to your final. There is no need to apply for academic concession. There will be no alternate arrangements to make up for missed exams (no makeup exams, no special arrangements).

*Final Exam:* The final exam is worth 25% and will be held during UBC's final examinations period. It is written via Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser. Questions may occur in random order, and in different order for different students, and you will not be able to see all the questions at once, and you cannot go back and revise an answer to a question which has been submitted. In these exams, you will be asked to provide answers to a few questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. A missed final exam will be assigned 0p unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be a standing deferred final exam after the course is over and administered by UBC Student Advising, not by the Philosophy Department).

**9. Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be expected to be familiar with: i) The main arguments in support of theism; ii) Some main arguments against theism.

## ***10. Marking Parameters***

Your mark in this course will be a function of three main factors i) your performance on the examinable momenta *relative to your peers*, ii) your comprehension of the course material, iii) demonstration of skill in assessing and evaluating philosophical ideas.

## ***11. Marking Scale***

**A+** 90-100% / **A** 85-89% / **A-** 80-84% / **B+** 76-79% / **B** 72-75% / **B-** 68-71%

**C+** 64-67% / **C** 60-63% / **C-** 55-59% / **D** 50-54% / **F** 0-49%

The degree of difficulty on the examinable momenta will be set so as to *aim* at a class average outcome that by and large conforms to the department average for this course down the years. Scaling may be used to this effect.

## ***12. Policy on Review of Marked Work***

Marks on exams and papers will be posted on canvas. Generic feedback on expected outcomes of exams and papers will be provided (typically by the Instructor) in so-called Feedback Sessions during class time. Additional feedback specific to your exam is up to the discretion of the TA who does the marking. Note that TA's are working under time restrictions (often they are allotted no more than 20min for the marking of each exam) and students cannot expect specific feedback beyond what the TA has or has not already provided. Any concerns about the marking of an exam should be submitted to the marker (the TA) via email, and will be responded to (typically by the TA) via email. Unresolved issues can be brought to the Instructor during the final exam period towards the end of the course, via email.

## ***13. Plagiarism***

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

## ***14. UBC Values and Policies***

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>).

Class participants are expected to conduct themselves respectfully towards each other as well as to their instructor. All violations of such norms that are brought to the attention of the instructor will be reported to the University Administration. This includes violations on online forums.

### ***15. Schedule***

A more detailed schedule will be published on canvas.