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**Days and Time**: MWF, 2:00pm–2:50am

**Room**: Irby 311

**Instructor**: Nicholas Brasovan, PhD **Office Hours**: MWF 1:00-1:50; TR 9:30-2:30  
**Office**: Irby 301c & by appointment  
**Email**: [nbrasovan@uca.edu](mailto:nbrasovan@uca.edu)

**Course Description: This seminar in the philosophy of religion will explore the ideas of different religious systems through a systematic inquiry into key themes that resurface in many religions. We begin with characterizations of ultimate sacred reality; next we move into the “role and limits of reason in supporting” religious belief; next we cover the problem of evil as it is philosophically analyzed with regard to religious belief; from there we move to an inquiry into religious pluralism, and finally we conclude with post-modern reflections on religion in contemporary world.**

**Objectives**:

1. **Diversity in World Cultures**. A principle of this course is to gain a pluralistic understanding of a diverse array of culturally-grounded worldviews. We will attempt to see things from different culturally-relative perspectives.
2. **History of Ideas**. We will gain a comprehensive (albeit general) understanding of the historical development of philosophical, religious, and scientific worldviews.
3. **Critical Thinking**. We will learn to employ deductive and inductive reasoning to argue for and against different points of view. We will learn to generate and critique different strategies for solving theoretical and practical dilemmas.
4. **Research and Writing.** This course is reading and writing intensive. The aim is to sharpen our research and academic writing skills.

**Required Texts:**

1. Readings in Philosophy of Religion: East Meets West. Andrew Eshleman, ed. (Blackwell 2008).
2. Handouts (To be distributed in class and/or posted online in the MyUCA course files.)

**Additional Resources (recommended, not required)**:

1. Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> .
2. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:
3. UCA Writing Center
4. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (in Torreyson Library).
5. [www.ctext.org](http://www.ctext.org)

**Assignments and Point Distribution:**

1. Presentations and Weekly Written Homework = 50%

a. Writing Assignments will be due every Friday by the start of class.

b. Oral Presentations will be delivered on assigned date.

2. Take-Home Exam 1 = 25%

3. Take-Home Exam 2 = 25 %

**Course Policies:**

1. **Attendance: 4 unexcused absences will result in a drop of one full letter grade from student’s final grade. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in an additional drop in one full letter grade from final grade.**
2. **If a student misses class for any reason, he or she should make it a point to visit the teacher to discuss the content of the missed lecture.**

**2. No late assignments will be accepted for credit.**

**3. Use of cell phones** **is prohibited in class**. If a student is observed violating this policy, then that student will be retroactively marked absent without notification.

4. Students are expected to come to class prepared to **participate**. This requires reading the assigned material for the day’s discussion.

5. **Academic Honesty**: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to *academic integrity* and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. ***Penalties for academic misconduct* (e.g. plagiarism) *in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate***. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy. If you are caught **plagiarizing**, moreover, you will be formally charged with a write-up, which will be submitted to the UCA administration and kept in your permanent academic file.

6. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.

7. Students should familiarize themselves with all policies included in the Student Handbook, particularly the following: Sexual Harassment Policy and Academic Policies.

8. An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

9. If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to “student-on-student” or “employee-on-student”), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. *\*Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.*

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| **Monday** | **Wednesday** | **Friday** |
| Tentative course schedule: Subject to change at instructors discretion and notification. |  | January 12  (Jan 11) Classes Begin |
| January 15  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | January 17  RPR: pp. 1-20 | January 19  RPR 1 |
| January 22  RPR 2 | January 24  RPR 3 | January 26 |
| January 29  RPR 4  RPR 11 | January 31  RPR 5  RPR 12 | February 2 |
| February 5  RPR 7-10 | February 7  RPR 13  RPR 6 | February 9 |
| February 12  RPR 14 | February 14  RPR 15 | February 16 |
| February 19  RPR 16 | February 21  RPR 17 | February 23 |
| February 26  RPR 18 | February 28  RPR 19 | March 2  No -Class |
| March 5  RPR 20 | March 7  RPR 21-23 | March 9 |
| March 12  RPR 24  PDF Hume | March 14  RPR 25 | March 16 |
| March 19  Spring Break | March 21  Spring Break | March 23  Spring Break |
| March 26  RPR 26 | March 28  RPR 31 | March 30 |
| April 2  RPR 32-34 | April 4  RPR 35 | April 6 |
| April 9  RPR 36, 38 | April 11  RPR 39, 42 | April 13 |
| April 16  RPR 57 | April 18  RPR 57, 58 | April 20 |
| April 23  RPR 61, 62 | April 25  RPR 64 | April 27  Study Day  Review Session |
| April 30 | May 2 | May 4  **Final Exams** |