

## **PIU11023/21 Central Problems A**

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<b>Credits:</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	<b>22 Hours of Lectures, 5 Hours of Tutorials</b>
<b>Pre-requisite:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Michaelmas</b>
<b>Module Leader</b>	
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Lecturer(s):</b>	
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### **Philosophy of Religion**

#### **Module Outline:**

This course offers an introduction to some of the main topics in philosophy of religion. It analyses how philosophical approaches to religion differ from other kinds of approach. Then two traditional arguments for God's existence are explored in some detail. The cosmological argument is one, which seeks to argue from certain phenomena in the world to the existence of a non-spatio-temporal cause of these.

The general features of such arguments are explored as well as standard objections to them. Then a classical and a modern version of this argument are examined. The argument to design is another traditional argument for God's existence. A famous version of this from William Paley is examined along with important objections to it from evolutionary theory and from the great Scottish philosopher, David Hume.

Then a modern version of this argument developed by Richard Swinburne is assessed. Finally the problem of evil is examined. This is the supposed incompatibility of the existence of an all good and all powerful God with the existence of evil. Different versions of the argument are explored and the free will defence in the version devised by Alvin Plantinga is assessed.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Analyse, distinguish and evaluate cosmological arguments for God's existence.
- Analyse, distinguish and evaluate design arguments for God's existence.
- Critically assess different version of the problem of evil.

**Recommended Reading List:**

As advised/circulated by lecturer during the lecture series.

**Philosophy of Mind**

**Module Outline:**

We shall cover three areas core to the philosophy of mind: 1) the nature and ontological status of mental content; 2) competing immaterialist and materialist takes upon the metaphysics of consciousness; 3) whether mind and/or consciousness are brain-bound, or instead are constituted by the brain, body, and world.

**Learning Outcomes:**

During this component of the course, students will learn:

- the 'nuts and bolts' of many core ideas and topics in philosophy of mind, as well as contemporary twists thereof
- how to critically engage with philosophical theses and ideas in this area (including by averting to relevant empirical work)
- the necessary background knowledge and skills for engaging in further independently guided study of topics in the philosophy of mind.

**Recommended Reading List:**

As advised/circulated by lecturer during the lecture series.

**Assessment:**

Annual and Reassessment are the same:

- Coursework: 1 essay from EITHER Component 1 OR Component 2 - 50%

- Examination: 1 examination question (1 hour) for the component for which an essay was not submitted - 50%