Philosophy of Religion

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About this course

This seminar covers major sources in the modern Continental philosophical conversation on the philosophy of religion focusing on the writings of Kant, Schleiermacher, Hegel, and Kierkegaard. Assigned readings will be introduced by graduate student presentations at the beginning of the Tuesday sessions. Additional readings will be presented on by undergraduate participants at the beginning of the discussions on Thursdays. Each student will give at least one presentation during this semester. Sign-up sheets for these class presentations will be circulated at the first meetings.

Grading

Students will be graded on attendance and participation (20%), and on their presentations (30%). Graduate students will write a term paper, following the attached guideline (50%). Undergraduate students will submit a midterm and a final exam. Both exams will be in a take-home format (25% each).

Course texts

Immanuel Kant, Religion within the Limits of Mere Reason
Daniel Friedrich Schleiermacher, On Religion, Speeches to the Educated among its Despisers
G. W. F. Hegel, Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion
Søren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling

Academic Code of Conduct

Undergraduate students, please see http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html.
Graduate students, please see the Graduate School's Academic Discipline Procedures at http://www.bu.edu/grs/academics/resources/adp.html.

Course schedule

Week I

Tuesday, January 16
Introduction to the course
Thursday, January 18
Kant: What does it mean to orient oneself in thinking?

Week II

Tuesday, January 23
Kant, Religion within the boundaries of mere reason: Prefaces and Part I
Thursday, January 25
Week III

Tuesday, January 30
Kant, Religion, Part II
Thursday, January 1
Kant, Religion, Part II (discussion)

Week IV

Tuesday, February 6
Kant, Religion, Part III
Thursday, February 8
Kant, Religion, Part III (discussion)

Week V

Tuesday, February 13
Kant, Religion, Part IV
Thursday, February 15
Kant, Religion, Part IV (discussion)

Last Day to DROP Classes (without a 'W' grade): Friday, February 16, 2007
Also: Last Day to Change from Credit to Audit Status

Week VI: Midterm (take-home; due Tuesday, Febr. 27)

Substitute Monday Schedule of Classes Tuesday, February 20, 2007
Thursday, February 22, no class: Prof. Zank in Phoenix

Week VII

Tuesday, February 27
Thursday, March 1
Schleiermacher, On Religion, First Speech (discussion)

Week VIII

Tuesday, March 6
Schleiermacher, On Religion, Second Speech
Thursday, March 8
Schleiermacher, On Religion, Second Speech (discussion)

Last Day to DROP Classes (with a 'W' grade): Friday, March 9, 2007
Spring Recess: Saturday, March 10, thru Sunday, March 18, 2007

Week IX

Tuesday, March 20
Schleiermacher, On Religion, Third Speech
Thursday, March 22
Week X

Tuesday, March 27
Schleiermacher, On Religion, Fourth Speech

Thursday, March 29
Schleiermacher, On Religion, Fourth Speech (discussion)

Week XI

Tuesday, April 3 (Passover)
Hegel, Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion: Editor’s introduction

Thursday, April 5
Hegel, Lectures: Hegel’s introduction

Week XII

Tuesday, April 10
Hegel, Lectures, Part I: The Concept of Religion

Thursday, April 12
Hegel, Lectures, Part I: The Concept of Religion (discussion)

Week XIII

Tuesday, April 17
Hegel, Lectures, Part II: Determinate Religion

Thursday, April 19
Hegel, Lectures, Part II: Determinate Religion (discussion)

Week XIV

Tuesday, April 24
Hegel, Lectures, Part III: The Consummate Religion

Thursday, April 26
Hegel, Lectures, Part III: The Consummate Religion (discussion)

Week XV

Tuesday, May 1
Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling

Thursday, May 3
Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (discussion)