

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**PHIL 34083 Philosophy of Religion**

**Credit Hours: 3      Lecture Hours: 3**

Prerequisite: PHIL 11003 Introduction to Philosophy, or PHIL 31083 Reasoning Across the Disciplines, or PHIL 32083 Ethics Across the Disciplines, or permission of the instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

A philosophical inquiry into the nature, value, and meaning of religion in human life.

**B. Additional Information**

This course will serve as one of the electives for the minor in Philosophy and will help to expand the department's offerings.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the nature of religion from a philosophical point of view.
2. Identify the major issues in the philosophy of religion.
3. Describe the major positions that have been put forward in response to these issues.
4. Analyze some of the common arguments used to justify positions in the philosophy of religion.
5. Evaluate some of the common arguments that have been introduced to justify positions in the philosophy of religion.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills****Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will learn to analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments presented in the writings of various philosophers.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will analyze ethical problems and evaluate possible solutions that have a marked religious component.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will successfully communicate philosophical ideas to a wide audience by giving presentations or writing papers on various topics in the philosophy of religion.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will demonstrate understanding of the role that philosophies of religion have had in shaping cultures throughout the world.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion
- B. The General Nature of Religion (i.e., what all religions have in common)
- C. Types of Religions
- D. The Nature of the Sacred
- E. The Nature of Revelation
- F. The Nature of Faith
- G. Adoration and Prayer
- H. Other Basic Religious Attitudes
- I. Mysticism