Philosophy of Religion Comprehensive Exam Reading List


**Epistemology of Religion** [note: all of these essays are in GS]

Phillips, D. Z. “Faith, Skepticism, and Religious Understanding”

Nielsen, Kai. “Does Religious Skepticism Rest on a Mistake?”

Plantinga, Alvin. “Is Belief in God Properly Basic?”

Pargetter, Robert. “Experience, Proper Basicality, and Belief in God”

Goetz, Stewart C. “Belief in God is not Properly Basic”

**Ethics of Belief**

James, William. “The Will to Believe” [Peterson]

Clifford, William. “The Ethics of Belief” [Peterson]

Abraham, William J. “Soft Rationalism” [Peterson]

[articles in Int’l J of Phil of Religion issue ??]

**Interpretation of Religious Language** [all essays in Peterson]

Aquinas. “The Doctrine of Analogy”


Tillich, Paul. “Religious Language as Symbolic”

Alston, William P. “Speaking Literally of God”

**Religious Experience**

James, William. “Religious Experience as the Root of Religion” [Peterson]

Alston, William P. “Religious Experience and Religious Belief” [GS]

Proudfoot, Wayne. “Explaining Religious Experience” [GS]

Martin, Michael. “Critique of Religious Experience” [Peterson]

**The Problem of Evil** [all essays in Peterson]

St. Augustine. “Evil is Privation of Good”

Hume, David. “Evil Makes a Strong Case against God’s Existence”

Mackie, J. L. “Evil and Omnipotence”

Plantinga, Alvin “The Free Will Defense”

Hick, John. “Soul-Making Theodicy”

Rowe, William. “The Evidential Argument from Evil”

**Arguments for God’s existence** [all essays in Peterson unless otherwise noted]

St. Anselm. “The Classical Ontological Argument”

Gaunilo “Critique of Anselm’s Argument”

Aquinas. “The Classical Cosmological Argument”

Mackie, J. L. “Critique of the Cosmological Argument”

Pascal, Blaise. “The Wager”


Cahn, Steven M. “The Irrelevance to Religion of Philosophic Proofs for the Existence of God” [GS]