Title and Code of Course: Philosophical Problems of the Existence of God
ERPB-BKO 9827 ERPB-MKO 9027

Instructor's Name: Dr. Legéndy Kristóf

Instructor's Email Address: legendy.kristof@gmail.com

Credit Point Value: **6**	Number of Lessons per Week: **2**	Type of Course: **Seminar ☐** **Lecture x**	Method of Evaluation: **Written Examination x** **In-Class Presentation x** **Other ☐**

Course Description:

This course explores one of the most enduring and profound questions in philosophy: Does God exist? By examining classical and contemporary philosophical debates, students will engage with various arguments both in favor of and against the existence of God. This inquiry will touch on fundamental issues such as the nature of belief, the role of reason, the problem of evil, and the implications of divine existence on human life.

Through the examination of key philosophical texts and arguments, students will critically analyze traditional proofs for the existence of God, such as the ontological, cosmological, and teleological arguments, while also confronting prominent objections, including the problem of evil and the challenge of inconsistent religious revelations. This course invites students to explore the dynamic interplay between faith and reason, addressing whether belief in God can be justified without empirical evidence and how modern philosophers continue to engage with this timeless debate.

Key Topics Covered:

Classical Arguments for the Existence of God:

The Ontological Argument: The concept of God as a being whose existence is self-evident through reason alone.
The Cosmological Argument: The need for a First Cause or Unmoved Mover to explain the existence of the universe.
The Teleological Argument: The apparent design and purpose in the universe as evidence for a divine designer.

Criticisms of Theism:

The Problem of Evil: How the existence of suffering and evil challenges belief in an all-powerful, all-good God.
Inconsistent Revelations: Conflicting religious claims about God's nature and will.
The Evidentialist Objection: Arguments that there is insufficient evidence to rationally justify belief in God.

Faith and Reason:

The relationship between faith and rational thought, exploring whether belief in God requires evidence or can stand apart from it.

Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives:

New Atheism: The modern critique of religion and belief in God.
Philosophical Theism: New defenses of belief in God based on concepts like fine-tuning and modal logic
Existentialism and Atheism: Philosophical reflections on life's meaning in a godless universe.

Bibliography:

The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World by Alister McGrath
One World: The Interaction of Science and Theology by John C. Polkinghorne
https://home.csulb.edu/~cwallis/100/aquinas.html
Modern Physics and Ancient Faith by Stephen M. Barr
The Good Book of Human Nature: An Evolutionary Reading of the Bible by Carel van Schaik, Kai Michel
God and the Knowledge of Reality by Thomas Molnar