

God, Evidence, and Evil 上帝, 證據, 與 邪惡

Course syllabus 課程大綱

Fall 2026

Instructor: Kevin Kimble
Room: Humanities Building TBD
Time: Fridays 13:10 – 15:00

Office: 423 Humanities Building
email: kekimble@ccu.edu.tw
office hours: Wednesday, Friday 12-1

I. Course Description 課程簡介

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the selected topics below in analytic philosophy of religion, and to help students think philosophically about the issues and problems to be discussed. Students will be expected to grasp the key issues and theories involved, as well as critically evaluate the main arguments for and against various positions.

這門課的目的，是要帶大家認識宗教哲學下面這幾個選定的主題，並幫助學生以分析哲學的方式思考相關議題與問題。學生需掌握主要的理論與爭點，並能批判性地評估各種立場的主要論證。

Here is a brief summary of the topics and schedule:
以下為課程主題與初步的進度概要：

GOD 上帝

What concept of God should we adopt? Does God have a nature, and if so, what are the key attributes of that nature? Is the standard concept of God coherent, or is it problematic in some way?

我們應採取何種上帝觀？上帝是否有其本性？若有，本性的主要屬性是什麼？傳統的上帝概念是否一致合理，或在某些方面存在問題？

EVIDENCE 證據

What exactly is *evidence*? Are there any evidence or arguments (philosophical, scientific, etc.) to support the existence of God, and if so, what are those arguments? Are those arguments plausible? Is it necessary for a person to have evidence or arguments for the existence of God, in order for that person's belief/ faith to be rational? Can a person know God or rationally believe in God without having any

evidence or arguments at all? Is scientific knowledge compatible with rationally believing in the Christian God?

「證據」到底是什麼？有沒有任何證據或論證（像是哲學上的、科學上的等等）可以支持上帝的存在？這些論證是否可信？一個人是否必須具備證據或論證，才能使其信仰／信念合理？人在沒有任何證據或論證的情況下，是否仍能認識上帝或合理地相信上帝？科學知識是否與合理地相信基督教的上帝相容？

EVIL 邪惡

Is the existence of evil and suffering compatible with believing in God? Does the presence of the large quantities of evil and suffering we see in the world render the existence of God, such as the Christian God, improbable or implausible? What are some of the explanations or solutions philosophers have proposed for why God allows evil and suffering, and are these solutions tenable?

邪惡與苦難的存在是否與信仰上帝相容？世界上大量的邪惡與苦難是否使上帝（如基督教的上帝）的存在變得不可能或不可信？哲學家提出過哪些解釋或方案來說明為何上帝允許邪惡與苦難？這些方案是否站得住腳？

We will not engage in vague and simplistic discussions of these issues. Rather, along the way we will rigorously deploy various philosophical tools at our disposal in our quest for a clearer understanding of these issues-- heuristic tools such as modal logic, possible worlds, counterfactual theorizing, probabilistic and Bayesian reasoning, and Grice-Austin implicature and pragmatics.

本課程將不對這些議題進行含糊或流於表面、簡化的討論。相反地，在探討的過程中，我們將嚴謹地運用各種哲學工具，以求對這些議題有更清晰的理解--其中包括各類啟發式工具，例如模態邏輯、可能世界、反事實理論、機率與貝氏推理，以及葛萊斯與奧斯汀的言外之意與語用學。

This course will require NO previous background in philosophy. I try to structure the course and materials in such a way to encourage students who are new to philosophy to take the opportunity to engage with this lively and exciting field of study.

修習本課程不需要任何哲學的先備背景。課程設計旨在鼓勵初次接觸哲學的同學，把握機會投入這個生動而充滿挑戰的研究領域。

II. Course Reading 課堂閱讀

Required text: Chad Meister, *Introducing Philosophy of Religion*. Routledge, 2009.

Selections from the textbook will be assigned regularly, as preparation for class lecture and discussion. 定期指定教科書中的部分作為課堂教學和討論準備的範圍。

(The volume of required reading will not be a lot; roughly 7-8 pages per week on average.) (閱讀量不多，平均每週約 7-8 頁。)

III. Written Requirements and Grading 作業要求和評量標準

1. One “objective-style” exam in class (一次課堂考試)

The exam is **40%** of course grade. The exam date will be 11/27.

考試佔課堂總成績的 40%。 考試日期將: 11/27

EXAM WILL BE *OPEN BOOK, OPEN NOTES*

考試可查閱課本與 教材 / 筆記

***** THERE WILL BE NO QUIZZES IN THIS COURSE ! *****

本課程不會有任何小考！

2. Small group discussions 小組討論

The class will form small groups, and we will use approximately 15-20 minutes of class each week to discuss questions pertaining to issues in the assigned readings. The results of each discussion will be written up and handed in, one report per group.

這堂課會將同學分成幾個小組，每週我們會用課堂中的 15-20 分鐘討論指定閱讀的相關議題中的問題。每次討論的結果要寫成報告繳交，一組交一份報告。

8 discussion reports worth 5 points each; your lowest 2 scores will not be counted;

8 次的課堂討論每次 5 分，最低的兩次分數不採計。

(8 group discussions = **60%** of course grade) (8 次討論 = 總成績的 60%)

Each grade will be based on group participation as well as the written summaries.

每次的分數不只看繳交的摘要報告，也會依據小組參與的狀況。

IV. Other Course Policies 其他的課堂規定

- Class notes will be posted regularly on Ecourse. 課程講義會定期發布在 Ecourse 上.
- all assigned work may be written in Chinese. 所有指定的功課都可以用中文書寫.
- Missed group discussions typically cannot be made up. The purpose of counting 6 out of 8 discussions is to provide you with a “safety net” for missed classes.
至於小組討論缺席則是不能被接受的。8 次討論中只考量 6 次討論的用意就是提供同學可能缺課的一個「安全機制」.
- Textbook policy-- each student must have access to the course text book/ readings to use during class time and small group discussions. 關於教科書的規定-- 每位學生每次上課時都必須攜帶課本 (或該週指定閱讀的部分) 到課堂上。
- Food policy-- students are not permitted to eat during class.
關於飲食的規定 -- 學生在課堂上不准吃東西.
- In assigning final course grades, I reserve the right to judge borderline cases on the basis of attitude, effort, and attendance. 在最後的總評分上，教師保留對邊緣個案依其態度、努力，課堂參與，以及出席而作出評斷的權利。

Tentative schedule of topics

I. The concept of GOD

Various concepts of God

The nature of God

Problems with the concept of God

II. Arguments and evidence ***for***

Ontological arguments

Cosmological arguments

Design arguments

Moral arguments

III. Arguments and evidence ***against***

Incompatibility of faith and reason

Incompatibility of faith and science

Arguments against miracles

The problem of evil and suffering

Arguments against the coherence of theism