

Spring 2017
PHIL 2250, Section 01
First Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, at least six pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on Monday, March 20th.

1. What is the ontological argument for the existence of God, and how does it work? Is the argument successful? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
2. What is the cosmological argument for the existence of God, and how does it work? Is the argument successful? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
3. What is the teleological argument for the existence of God, and how does it work? Is the argument successful? Why or why not? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
4. Is it possible to prove the existence of God beyond a shadow of a doubt? Why or why not? If not, what are the implications for the traditional theist? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
5. What is the problem of evil, and how serious is it for the traditional theist? Does evil in the world constitute evidence against the existence of God? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
6. How does William R. Jones address the problem of evil, and what do you make of his critical analysis of “divine racism”? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
7. How does Hans Jonas address the problem of evil, and what do you make of his critical analysis of “post-Auschwitz Judaism”? Use two additional sources in your discussion.
8. How does Dorothee Sölle address the problem of evil, and what do you make of her critical analysis of “Christian masochism”? Use two additional sources in your discussion.