

Spring 2018
PHIL 2250, Section 01
Philosophy of Religion
Third 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 on Monday, May 7th at 10:30.

1. In *Fear and Trembling*, Kierkegaard describes a “teleological suspension of the ethical” in his analysis of the story of Abraham and Isaac. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
2. In *I and Thou*, Buber affirms the importance of I-You relations in addition to I-It experiences. What is his argument, and how could we apply it concretely in the world? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
3. In *The Future of an Illusion*, Freud harshly describes the psychological origins of the idea of “God.” What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. In *Why I Am Not a Christian*, Bertrand Russell explains his reasons for rejecting Christianity. What are they (or at least some of them), and what do you make of them? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. Choose an issue, pertaining to the philosophy of religion, that we have not talked about in class. Explore that issue in your paper, and use five additional sources in your discussion. Confirm your issue with me before proceeding.