

PHI 101 - Metaphysics

Lecture 2

Overview of Philosophy of Religion

The Philosophical Investigation of Divinity

Metaphysics Part 1

Philosophy of Religion

I. Four Basic Problems:

A. What *is* God?

B. Does God *exist*?

C. How do we account for *evil* in the universe?

D. What is the nature of *faith*?

II. What is God? - Some *possible* definitions

A. **Theism** - The 3-O God

1. Omnipotent

2. Omniscient

3. Omnibenevolent

4. Person

Metaphysics Part 1

Philosophy of Religion

B. **Deism** - The Supreme Being

1. Omnipotent
2. Omniscient
3. Perfect Creator

C. **Pantheism** - All *is* God

God = Universe

D. **Panentheism** - All *is in* God

The Universe is *in* God, but God *exceeds the sum* of the parts. God is the “ground” of being.

Metaphysics Part 1

Philosophy of Religion

NOTE: Other Important Terms -

- Terms describing religions (*non-philosophical*):

Monotheism - only one god

Polytheism - many gods

Animism - many natural spirits/powers

- Terms describing positions on the *existence* of God:

Theist - we *know* that God (3-O) exist

Atheist - we *know* that God (3-O) does *not* exist

Agnostic - we don't *know* if God does or does not exist

Metaphysics Part 1

Philosophy of Religion

III. Traditional Arguments for the existence of God:

- A. **Ontological** - The idea 'god' proves the existence of God (*a priori*)
- B. **Cosmological** - The universe's existence proves God's existence (*a posteriori*)
- C. **Teleological** - The order of the universe proves God's existence (*a posteriori*)
- D. **Religious Experience** (*a posteriori*) -
 - 1. *Consensus Gentium*
 - 2. Mysticism