

**DVPR 42701:**  
**Recent Work in Philosophy of Religions**

Spring term, 2014  
Swift Hall 400  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:50

Instructor: Dan Arnold

Office hours: Swift 401A, Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 (or by arrangement with instructor); for appointments during regular office hours, sign up on the sheet kept by Julia Ivory-Woods (773-702-7049) in the Martin Marty Center

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**Course Requirements:**

In addition to exhibiting regular attendance and spirited participation in discussion, students will be required to write a brief (c. 1,500-2,000-word) review of one of the books on the syllabus; in addition, a final paper of modest length (12-15 pages), on a theme to be developed in consultation with the instructor, will be **due Friday, June 13**.  
N.b.: *Late papers will not be accepted without prior notice.*

**Required Readings:**

A small number of our readings are short selections available electronically through Chalk; the following books are all on reserve at Regenstein Library, and are (with one exception) also available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

- **Thomas A. Lewis**, *Freedom and Tradition in Hegel* (buy from Amazon)
- **William Wainwright**, *Reason and the Heart*
- **Alvin Plantinga**, *Where the Conflict Really Lies*
- **Brian Leiter**, *Why Tolerate Religion?*
- **Eddie Glaude**, *In a Shade of Blue*
- **Sarah Coakley**, *Sacrifice Regained: Reconsidering the Rationality of Religious Belief*
- **Ann Taves**, *Religious Experience Reconsidered*
- **Owen Flanagan**, *The Bodhisattva's Brain*
- **Tyler Roberts**, *Encountering Religion*

**Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

**Week 1** (Tuesday, April 1; Thursday, April 3)

Course introduction. For Thursday: Dan Garber, “Religion and Science, Faith and Reason: Some Pascalian Reflections”; John Clayton, “Claims, Contexts and Contestability” (both on Chalk)

**Week 2** (Tuesday, April 8; *NO CLASS on Thursday, April 10*)

Thomas A. (“Tal”) Lewis, *Freedom and Tradition in Hegel: Reconsidering Anthropology, Ethics, and Religion* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005; available used from Amazon <<http://tinyurl.com/kz3sxh6>>). **N.b. that Prof. Lewis will be speaking this week – Wednesday the 9th, at 4:30 p.m., under the auspices of the Philosophy of Religions Workshop.**

**Week 3** (Tuesday, April 15; Thursday, April 17)

William Wainwright, *Reason and the Heart: A Prolegomenon to a Critique of Passional Reason* (for the series “Cornell Studies in the Philosophy of Religion”; Cornell University Press, 2006).

**Week 4** (Tuesday, April 22; *NO CLASS on Thursday, April 24*)

Alvin Plantinga, *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

**Week 5** (Tuesday, April 29; Thursday, May 1):

Brian Leiter, *Why Tolerate Religion?* (Princeton University Press, 2013)

**Week 6** (Tuesday, May 6; Thursday, May 8)

Eddie Glaude, *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America* (University of Chicago Press, 2008)

**Week 7** (Tuesday, May 13; Thursday, May 15)

Sarah Coakley, *Sacrifice Regained: Reconsidering the Rationality of Religious Belief: An Inaugural Lecture by the Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity given in the University of Cambridge, 13 October 2009* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

**Week 8** (Tuesday, May 20; Thursday, May 22)

Ann Taves, *Religious Experience Reconsidered: A Building-Block Approach to the Study of Religion and Other Special Things* (Princeton University Press, 2011)

**Week 9** (Tuesday, May 27; Thursday, May 29)

Owen Flanagan, *The Bodhisattva’s Brain: Buddhism Naturalized* (A Bradford Book from MIT Press, 2011)

**Week 10** (Tuesday, June 2; Thursday, June 5)

Tyler Roberts, *Encountering Religion: Responsibility and Criticism after Secularism* (Columbia University Press, 2013; for the series “Insurrections: Critical Studies in Religion, Politics, and Culture”)