

Philosophy 23: Exam 3

1. Taliaferro

- A. Choose one of the 4 arguments for the existence of God given in Taliaferro. Give the strongest version of this, then the strongest objections you can find or develop.
- B. What is the problem of evil? What are the best arguments for solving this problem presented in Taliaferro and what are the strongest objections given or that you can develop?
- C. On what grounds do Miller and Guerriere object to this kind of speculative argumentation in philosophy of religion and theology? What does Guerriere (esp. pp. 97-100) say that undermines any arguments for or against the existence of God based on freedom and/or evil?

2. New Atheists:

What are some of the central arguments of the “New Atheists” against religion? In what way are they useful? In what way, if any, do they miss the mark (use any of our readings this semester for this)?

EXTRA CREDIT:

Main Question for the Course (draw on all readings and see “Phil 23: Religious Experience, Experience of the Sacred” posted online):

Is a religious experience an experience of the sacred? What is an experience of the sacred? What does this mean? Discuss the relation between religion and religious experience. What is genuinely religious experience and how do we know what is not? What are its manifestations? What can properly be said about it? How can we tell false from genuine religion, i.e., religious experience? Why is it that “those who profess a religion may be falsely religious and those who do not profess any religion may be truthfully religious?” What **IS** religion that makes this so? For example: Why is religious fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam idolatry and NOT a return to a more genuine archaic fundament? How might Buddhism be a genuine religion even without God or is that impossible given what a genuine religious experience must be?