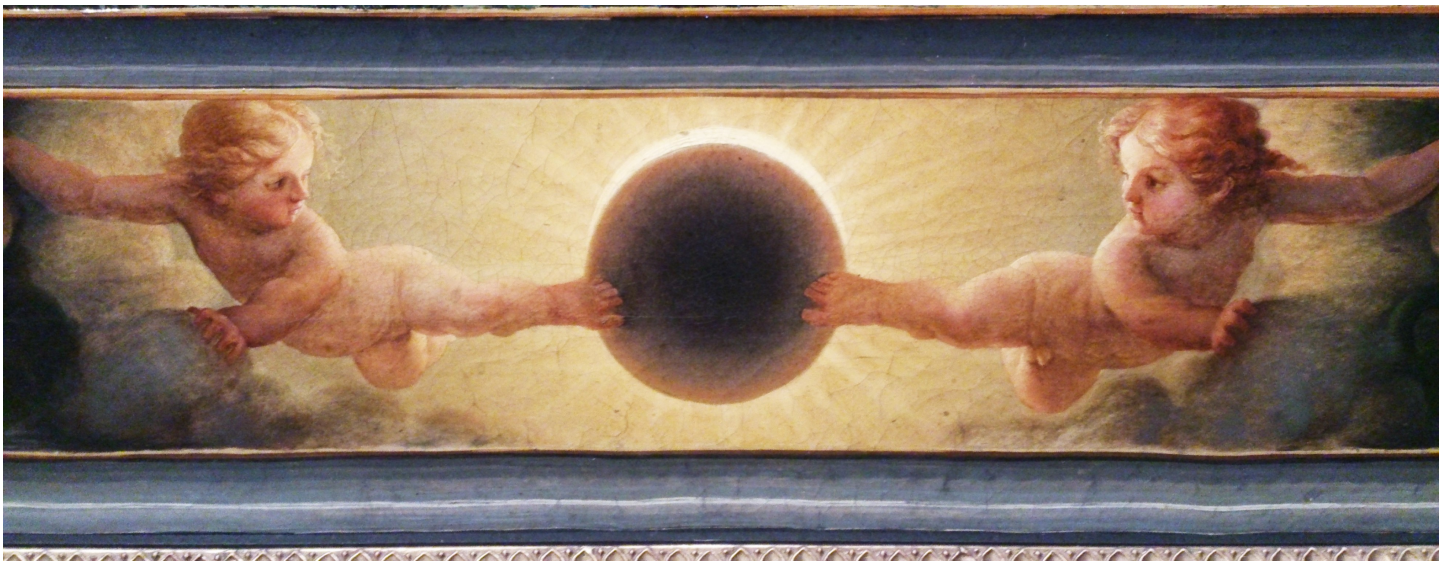
1000-E22;The Philosophy of Religion After the Death of God+1000-E22;The Philosophy of Religion After the Death of God

Spring til i dag



Spring Semester 2022

(%24CANVAS_COURSE_REFERENCE%24/file_ref/gbcad138b56b853d330b9e61a9aab9a9f/download?wrap=1)

Course Content:

In this course, we will explore the possibility of religious conviction in a secularized world. Questions like these are central: In a world in which religious narratives and doctrines strike the contemporary mind as unbelievable as history or scientific explanation, upon what might the modern, educated person base her religious convictions? Are religious sensibilities ultimately expressions of a deep sense of morality? Is the religious attitude better described as a feeling or intuition for the infinite behind the finite world? Is personal religious conviction based on experience of the divine? Is contemporary faith an intellectually indefensible but nonetheless hopeful subjective decision to adopt religious traditions and doctrines?

This course will concentrate on the the evolution of religious philosophy during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with particular attention on the thought of Copenhagen's most famous philosophical mind, Søren Kierkegaard. Most of the authors we read argue that the philosophy of religion should avoid the temptation to justify religion solely in terms of rationality

and that it ought to take into account the experiential aspects of religious life, as well. Our goal in this class is to gain a critical appreciation of this kind of religious philosophy. We will study a handful of highly influential texts by Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Friedrich Nietzsche, William James, as well as Kierkegaard.

Course Instructor:

Mads Peter Karlsen, PhD, Associate Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion, University of Copenhagen. Email: **mpk@teol.ku.dk (mailto:mpk@teol.ku.dk)**

Class Meetings:

Tuesdays 12:15-14:30, room 7C.1.19

Language of instruction and discussion:

English. (Final papers, however, may also be written in Danish, Swedish, or Norwegian).

Streaming:

We plan on physical participation this semester, but the course will also be livestreamed, though the requirements for the research paper are changed significantly if you follow the course online.

Zoom link: **https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/4288458378?pwd=VktBT0JTLzB5czNoZkpoYTc5aUM5QT09 (https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/4288458378?pwd=VktBT0JTLzB5czNoZkpoYTc5aUM5QT09)**

Expectations of the students:

The students are expected to have prepared themselves carefully for each class, that is, to have done the required reading and to think about issues, problems, and questions to be discussed in class. Moreover, the students are expected to engage in the discussions as well as the group work.

Requirements:

***Short papers*:** Three short papers (ca. 4-5 double spaced pages) will be assigned during the course of the semester. (*Danske studerende må gerne skrive på dansk*).

***Final paper*:** An analytical/interpretive paper will be due toward the end of the semester. (*Danske studerende må gerne skrive på dansk*).

If you participate physically in the classroom (at least 75% of the time), the exam requirements are:

- Undergraduate requirements (bachelor students): A final paper of 19,200-24,000 characters, i.e., 8-10 "normal" pages (1.5 line spacing), based on 400-500 pages literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher and the final assessment is graded according to the 7-point grading scale.
- Graduate requirements (kandidat/master students): A final paper of 26,400-36,000 characters, i.e., 11-15 "normal" pages (1.5 line spacing), based on 800-1000 pages of literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher and the final assessment is graded according to the 7-point grading scale.

If you not* not *participate in the classes physically (at least 75% of the time), the research paper requirements are:

- Undergraduate requirements (bachelor students): A final paper of 36,000-48,000 characters, i.e., 15-20 "normal" pages, based on 1,200-1,500 pages literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher and the final assessment is graded according to the 7-point grading scale.
- Graduate requirements (kandidat/master students): A final paper of 60,000-72,000 characters, i.e., 25-30 "normal" pages, based on 1500 pages of literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher and the final assessment is graded according to the 7-point grading scale.

Course Evaluation:

(%24CANVAS_COURSE_REFERENCE%24/file_ref/gc091475ddd3b63cfd84728da2742c21f/download?wrap=1) Research paper: 45%

First short paper: 15%
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Second short paper: 15%

Third short paper: 15%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Plagiarism Policy:

In accordance with UCPH rules for academic ethics, there will be a no tolerance policy towards cheating and plagiarism. The submission of any paper which is not your own work will result in

an automatic fail and may have severe consequences for your future studies

Readings:

Completion of reading assignments as scheduled is required and is a prerequisite for participating in class discussions.

For students who read Danish: Kierkegaards samlede værker, *Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter* (*SKS*), is available online at **www.sks.dk (http://www.sks.dk)** . I have provided references to *SKS* for the Kierkegaard readings (e.g., Danish: *SKS* 4, 148-151) in this reading plan. (Note: To see page breaks, place a checkmark in the middle box, next to *SKS*, on the top left-hand side of the screen).

Course texts:

Books to be purchased:

Immanuel Kant, *Religion Within the Boundaries of Mere Reason,* Cambridge, 1998. ISBN: 978-1-316-60402-1.

Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers*, Cambridge, 1996. ISBN: 978-0-521-47975-2.

Søren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, Penguin, 1985. ISBN: 978-0-140-44449-0.

William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, Oxford, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-969164-7.

Pdf readings on Absalon:

Søren Kierkegaard, selected texts from *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*.

Oversigt over fag:

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfalder
tirs den 30. Aug 2022	**Session 1: What Does the "The Death of God" Mean? (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107238&include_contexts=course_60754)**	0:00

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfalder
tirs den 6. Sep 2022	Session 2: Religion and Moral Duty (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107234&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 20. Sep 2022	Session 3: Religion and Moral Duty, part 2. Religious Intuition and Feeling, part 1 (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107235&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 27. Sep 2022	Session 4: Religious Intuition and Feeling, part 2 (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107239&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
man den 3. Okt 2022	First short paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/60754/assignments/160287)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 4. Okt 2022	Session 5: Faith and Madness (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107229&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 25. Okt 2022	Session 6: Faith and Resignation (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107236&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 1. Nov 2022	Session 7: Faith and Ethics (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107237&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
man den 14. Nov 2022	Second short paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/60754/assignments/160290)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 15. Nov 2022	Session 8: The “How,” Not the “What” (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107232&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 22. Nov 2022	Session 9: Religious Conviction (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107233&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfalder
man den 28. Nov 2022	Third short paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/60754/assignments/160291)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 29. Nov 2022	Session 10: Religious Experience (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107231&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tirs den 6. Dec 2022	Session 11: Consultation on final paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=107301&include_contexts=course_60754)	0:00
tors den 15. Dec 2022	Final paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/60754/assignments/160288)	forfalder 23.59