

# 1000-F24;Religion in Crisis: The Philosophy of Religion After the Death of God+1000-F24;The Philosophy of Religion After the Death of God

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Spring Semester 2024

[\(%24CANVAS COURSE REFERENCE%24/file\\_ref/gbcad138b56b853d330b9e61a9aab9a9f/download?wrap=1\)](#)

## 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 philosophy of religion during the nineteenth 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, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Friedrich Nietzsche, 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) (<mailto:mpk@teol.ku.dk>)

### **Class Meetings:**

Tuesdays 10:15-12:30, room 6B.0.22 (NB. First day of class will be January 23).

### **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 for DIS-students:

*For undergraduate students (bachelor students):*

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). The syllabus volume and content are determined by the teacher, and three papers are to be submitted to the teacher of each 4-5 pages, as well as a final major assignment, which has a size of 19,200-24,000 characters, i.e. 8-10 pages.

## Requirements for KU-students (both Danish students and Exchange students):

*For undergraduate students (bachelor students):*

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). A final major assignment, which has a size of 24.000-28.800 characters, i.e. 10-12 pages. The assignments is assessed by the teacher and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: A final assignment assignment that has a scope of 36,000-48,000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages.

*For graduate students (kandidat/master students):*

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). A final paper of 36.000-48-000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages. The assignment is assessed by the teacher, and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: An assignment of 60,000-72,000 characters, i.e. 25-30 pages.

## Course Evaluation for DIS students:

[https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/%24CANVAS COURSE REFERENCE%24/file\\_ref/gc091475dddwrap=1](https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/%24CANVAS COURSE REFERENCE%24/file_ref/gc091475dddwrap=1))\_Final paper: 45%

First short paper: 15%

[https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/%24CANVAS COURSE REFERENCE%24/file\\_ref/gc091475dddwrap=1](https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/%24CANVAS COURSE REFERENCE%24/file_ref/gc091475dddwrap=1))

Second short paper: 15%

Third short paper: 15%

Attendance and participation: 10%

## Course Evaluation for KU-students (both Danish students and Exchange students):


Final paper: 100%

### 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)  (<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.

*Primary texts on Absalon* (under Moduls):

Immanuel Kant, selected texts from, *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Critique of Practical Reason*.

G.W.F. Hegel, "Reason and Religious Truth: Hegel's Forward to Hinrichs' Die Religion im inneren Verhältnisse zur Wissenschaft (1822)"

G.W.F. Hegel, "Christianity" from *Philosophy of History*.

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





Skjul alle **Vis fremgang**

Eksporter fagindhold

Offentliggør alle ▼

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☰ **SESSION 1: What Does the "The Death of God" Mean?** ✓ ▼

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**Required reading** ✓ ☰

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**The Emergence of Modern Philosophy of Religion - Westphal (in A Companion to Philosophy of Religion - 2010 - Taliaferro).pdf** ✓ S ☰

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**Nietzsche: The Gay Science, §125 & §343** ✓ S ☰

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☰ **Reading Questions** ✓ S ☰

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**Optional reading** ✓ ☰

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**The Place of God in Post-Kantian Philosophy - Mulhall (in Oxford Handbook of Continental Philosophy).pdf** ✓ S ☰

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**Power Point** ✓ ☰



























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**Session 1** ✓ S ☰

☰ **SESSION 2: Kant: On arguments for and postulate of the existence of God** ✓ ▼

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**Required reading** ✓ ☰

 Kant, CPR, the-ideal-of-pure-reason (p. 563-569)		
 Kant, CPrR, dialectic_of_pure_practical_reason (p. 100-107)		
 Philosophy of religion after the death of God - Jaeschke.pdf		 
 Reading Questions-3		 
<b>Optional reading</b>		
 Rational theology moral faith and religion - Wood.pdf		 
<b>Power Point</b>		
 Session 2		 

		
▼ <b>SESSION 3: Kant: Religion and Moral Duty, part 1</b>		
<b>Required reading</b>		
<b>Kant, "Preface" and "The Victory of the Good Principle over the Evil Principle, and the Founding of a Kingdom of God on Earth" ("Division One") in Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason. p. 39-48 + 125-152</b>		
 Reading Questions-2		 
<b>Optional reading</b>		
 Oneill Kant on Reason and Religion		 
<b>Power Point</b>		

 **Session 3**
**First short paper (hand out)**
 **SESSION 4: Kant: Religion and Moral Duty, part 2.**
**Required reading**

**Kant, "The Victory of the Good Principle over the Evil Principle, and the Founding of a Kingdom of God on Earth" ("Division Two") in Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason. p. 152-172**












 **Reading Questions-4**
**Power Point**
 **Session 4**




















 **SESSION 5: Schleiermacher: Religious Intuition and Feeling, part 1**
**Required reading**















**Friedrich Schleiermacher, "First Speech" in On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers.**


 **Reading Questions-5**
**Optional reading**



	<b>On Schleiermacher in Routledge Handbook on philosophy of religion.pdf</b>			
	<b>Power Point</b>			
	<b>Session 5</b>			

	<b>SESSION 6: Schleiermacher: Religious Intuition and Feeling, part 2</b>				
	<b>Required reading</b>				
	<b>Friedrich Schleiermacher, "Second Speech" and "Fourth Speech" in On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers.</b>				
	<b>Reading Questions-6</b>				
	<b>Power Point</b>				
	<b>Session 6</b>				

	<b>SESSION 7: Hegel: Faith and Reason</b>				
	<b>Required reading</b>				
	<b>Hegel, Reason and Religious Truth Forward to Hinrichs Die Religion im inneren Verhältnisse zur Wissenschaft.pdf</b>				
	<b>Optional reading</b>				
	<b>Hegels philosophy of religion - Farneth.pdf</b>				

<b>Power Point</b>		
<b>Sesssion 7</b>		
<b>Second short paper (Hand out)</b>		

**▼ SESSION 8: Hegel: Philosophy of Religion**

**Required reading**

<b>Hegel, Philosophy of History, Christianity.pdf</b>		
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**Optional reading**

<b>Hegel, Philosophy of Religion (intro).pdf</b>		
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<b>Hegels Philosophical Interpretation of Christianity - Stewart.pdf</b>		
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**Additional reading**

<b>Hegel, The Reformation, Philosophy of History.pdf</b>		
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**Power Point**


<b>Sesssion 8</b>		
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**▼ SESSION 9: Kierkegaard: Faith and Madness**






























<https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/70611/modules>

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<b>Required reading</b>	✓	⋮
Søren Kierkegaard, "Preface," "Attunement," and "Speech in Praise of Abraham," in <i>Fear and Trembling</i> (Penguin English edition, pp. 41-56 (Danish edition: SKS 4, s. 99-120)	✓	⋮
Søren Kierkegaard, "Preamble from the Heart," in <i>Fear and Trembling</i> (Penguin English edition, pp. 57-82 (Danish: SKS 4, s. 121-147)	✓	⋮
 <b>Genesis, chapter 22</b>	✓	⋮
 <b>Reading Questions-7</b>	✓	S ⋮
<b>Optional reading</b>	✓	⋮
 <b>A reading of FT - Evans.pdf</b>	✓	S ⋮
<b>Power Point</b>	✓	⋮
 <b>Session 9</b>	⊘	S ⋮

⋮ ▼ <b>SESSION 10: Kierkegaard: Faith and Ethics</b>	✓	⋮
<b>Required reading</b>	✓	⋮
Søren Kierkegaard, "Problemata 1-2," in <i>Fear and Trembling</i> (Penguin English edition, pp. 83-108 (Danish: SKS 4, s. 148-171)	✓	⋮
 <b>Reading Questions-8</b>	✓	S ⋮
<b>Optional reading</b>	✓	⋮

<b>Second short paper (hand out)</b>		
<b>Power Point</b>		
<b>Third short paper (hand out)</b>		
 <b>Session 10</b>		 


		
<b>▼ SESSION 11: Kierkegaard: Religions conviction</b>		
<b>Required reading</b>		
 <b>Søren Kierkegaard, Journal entry NB11:179 in Kierkegaard's Journals and Notebooks, vol. 7, pp. 104-106 (Danish: SKS 22, s. 107-109)</b>		
 <b>Søren Kierkegaard, selections from Concluding Unscientific Postscript, 155-158, 167-172, 197-204 (Danish: SKS 7, s. 170-173, 182-187, 214-221)</b>		
 <b>Reading Questions-9</b>		 
<b>Optional reading</b>		
 <b>Soderquist, "On Faith and Reasons"</b>		 
<b>Power Point</b>		
 <b>Session 11</b>		 

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▼ **Final paper** ✔ ▼

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 **Final paper** ⊘ S ⋮



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▼ **Content and resources for your course** ✔ ▼



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 [Absalon help for students - see your Study Page at KUnet](https://intranet.ku.dk/)  ✔ ⋮

(<https://intranet.ku.dk/>)

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 [Books and journals for your study from Copenhagen University Library](http://kub.kb.dk/c.php?g=514341&p=3514066&preview=8882aa68f366075fe92c490f6da2733c)  ✔ ⋮

(<http://kub.kb.dk/c.php?g=514341&p=3514066&preview=8882aa68f366075fe92c490f6da2733c>)