

Course Name	Advanced : Does God Exist? The Great Debate		
Semester, Year	Second Semester, 2018	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	2000	Course Number	27135
Instructor(s) (Institution)	Peter RICHARDSON (大学院メディア・コミュニケーション研究院)		
Course Objectives	The possible existence of some type of God is one of the oldest, most emotional, and most controversial debate topics. It therefore provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop their critical thinking and their abilities to effectively interact with others at a very high level. The purpose of this course is to give students the chance to consider a complex topic from a range of perspectives, and to develop their ability to think for themselves and express their thoughts in the form of agreement or respectful disagreement with others.		
Course Goals	<p>1) Develop the students' advanced listening and reading skills through exposure to native-speaker level debates in English.</p> <p>2) Develop the students' ability to think critically by detecting key weaknesses and strengths in a wide range of sophisticated arguments.</p> <p>3) Encourage students to clearly and confidently express their critical evaluations through their own presentations, their responses to the presentations of others, and group discussions.</p>		
Course Schedule	<p>The course will revolve around student presentations on key, well-known debates related to the issues of the origin of the Universe, the origin of life, the notion of a possible ultimate purpose, and the existence of God. The precise schedule of these presentations and the debates they will be based on will depend on the number of students. However, a provisional list of these key debates is provided below along with a list of key topics:</p> <p>John Lennox and Richard Dawkins: The God Delusion Debate Sam Harris and William Lane Craig: The Foundation of Morality Extracts from Lennox and Craig that pertain to the reliability of sacred texts Interviews and TED presentations given by David Chalmers and Daniel Dennett</p> <p>List of key topics:</p> <p>The anthropic principle and the argument that the Universe has been fine tuned for life. Key choices: An infinite God and creation from nothing, an infinite Universe, or something from "nothing" and the possibility of the multiverse. Evaluating the validity of religious experience and the historicity of sacred texts (using as an example an examination of the resurrection accounts). The challenges presented by the origin of life on Earth, human consciousness, rationality, and morality. Assessing Evolution's implications for traditional and modern religious world-views. Assessing the implications of research into the origin and nature of consciousness and the idea of a self.</p>		
Homework	積極的かつ主体的な準備学習（予習・復習）が求められる。準備学習への取り組み方全般については、学期はじめに担当教員から説明があるほか、各回の授業で求められる準備学習の具体的内容については、学期中随時教員から指示がある。また履修者が自ら主体的に計画と目標を立て、自律的に準備学習に取り組むことも強く期待される。準備学習を十分に行わなければ、身につけるべき内容を消化できず、単位も取得できなくなる可能性があるため、真剣かつ計画的に取り組んでほしい。		
Grading System	Grades will be awarded according to the following framework: participation (attendance and level of participation in class activities and discussions): 20%; presentations: 30%; final test: 50%.		
Textbooks / Reading List			
Websites			
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information	<p>There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will be provided with handouts at the beginning of each class.</p> <p>この授業は英語上級者（目安として TOEFL-ITP 試験の成績が 500 点以上）を主な対象者とする。この授業は国際交流科目等との合同開講科目です。</p>		