



Assignments: Read the assigned texts for each. Answer the questions with detailed answers based off of the reading. Poor and short answers will receive no credit. Responses should show knowledge of the reading and thoroughly answer the questions. Only thoughtful, quality answers will receive credit. There is no need to do additional research; the readings should be sufficient enough. *Even if the question asks your "opinion," it must be provided in consultation with the reading material.* Answers for each question should be no less that a good detailed paragraph, however, more is expected for a good grade.

WATCH:

<u>10</u>: "A History of God" by Karen Armstrong <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJkNs512Lsk</u> (Watch Video). Five Essays.

ANSWER:

- 1. What was <u>Abraham's</u> and <u>Moses</u>' experience and teaching about the God?
- 2. What did the prophets Elijah, Isaiah and Isaiah II add to this teaching about God?
- 3. What is the Axial Age?
- 4. What did <u>Jesus Christ</u> reveal about God?
- 5. How did the early Church Fathers interpret his teachings about God?

WATCH:

<u>11</u>: "The God Debate:" Christopher Hitchens—Dinesh D'Souza http:// <u>www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V85OykSDT8</u> (Watch Video) Five Essays.

ANSWER:

- 1. What were the main points that Christopher Hitchens made about/against religion?
- 2. What were the main points the Dinesh D'Souza made about/for religion?
- 3. Which of Hitchens' points did you think was the strongest?
- 4. Which of <u>D'Souza's points</u> did you think was the strongest?
- 5. Who do you think "won" the debate? Explain why.

READ:

12: "Concepts of God" in *Philosophy of Religion: A Beginners Guide* by Charles Taliaferro, pages 24-47. (This is a PDF file attachment)

ANSWER:

- 1. How can a contemporary person understand the divine attribute of "incorporality" and omnipresence?
- 2. How can a contemporary person understand the divine attribute of "omnipotence?"
- 3. How can a contemporary person understand the divine attribute of "omniscience?"
- 4. How can a contemporary person understand the divine attribute of "eternity?"
- 5. How should the relationship between the "God the philosophers" and the "God of revelation" be understood?

READ:

"Classical and Contemporary Arguments for God" in Philosophy of Religion by Charles Taliaferro. (This is a PDF file attachment)

ANSWER:

- 1. What is "naturalism" and how does it connect with atheism?
- 2. What is "ontological argument" for God and how can it be understood today?
- 3. What is the "cosmological argument" for God and how can it be defended against Dawkins?
- 4. What is the "teleological argument" for God and how can it be related to evolution?
- 5. What is the argument from "religious experience" for God's existence?



