

## The problem of evil

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**Start date** 12 October, 2018                      **End date** 14 October 2018

**Venue**            Madingley Hall  
                      Madingley  
                      Cambridge

**Tutor**            Dr. Karim Esmail                      **Course code** 1819NRX059

**Director of Academic Centres**            Dr Corinne Boz

**For further information on this course, please contact**            Academic Centre Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book**        See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Karim Esmail    BA    MPhil    MPhil    PhD

Educated at Oxford, Cambridge, London, and Harvard.

Awarded a British Academy Studentship.

Awarded the Gregg Bury Prize at Cambridge.

Formerly, Research Fellow, Oxford & Burney Student, Cambridge & Visiting Fellow, Harvard.

Alongside international articles, he is the author of a clear, original and best-selling work on God's nature and existence, *God A brief philosophical introduction*.

*God A brief philosophical introduction II* is forthcoming.

He lectures at both Oxford and Cambridge.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Introduction
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The Logical Problem of Evil
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Plantinga's Free Will Defence
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Plantinga's Free Will Defence
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	The Evidential Problem of Evil
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Theodicy: Augustine
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Theodicy: Irenaeus/Hick
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

- To provide an understanding of the problem of evil.
- To provide an understanding of *some* of the main solutions and explanations proposed by philosophers and theologians.

### Content:

The existence of evil in the world provides the principal (philosophical) grounds to question God's existence.

This course is an introduction to the problem of evil.

It will consider the problem and some varieties of the problem and an influential response which has been made to one variety of the problem by the American philosopher, Alvin Plantinga.

It will also consider one or two highly influential explanations for the existence of evil in a world created by God in the Christian tradition.

### Presentation of the course:

Lectures and discussion.

### As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should have:

- An understanding of the problem of evil.
- An understanding of *some* of the main solutions and explanations proposed by philosophers and theologians.

## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk \*

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
<u><i>A useful book for the whole course:</i></u>		
Peterson, M. (ed.),	<i>The Problem of Evil: Selected Readings</i>	Notre Dame, 1992
<u><i>Other useful books and articles:</i></u>		
Adams, M.M. & R.M.(eds.),	<i>The Problem of Evil</i>	Oxford, 1990
Esmail, K. H. A.,	<i>God A brief philosophical introduction</i>	Vernon Press, 2016
Hick, J.,	<i>Evil and the God of Love</i>	New York, 1978
<i>Plantinga, Alvin,</i>	<i>God, Freedom, and Evil,</i>	New York, 1977
Rowe, William L. (ed.),	<i>God and the Problem of Evil</i>	Blackwell, 2001

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 28 August 2018