



Oct 15-19th **Attempt to Disprove the Existence of God: The Problem of Evil**  
**Is the existence of evil compatible with the existence of God?/ Is the Judeo-Christian conception of goodness coherent?**  
Fyodor Dostoevsky "Rebellion"  
B.C. Johnson "God and the Problem of Evil"  
Richard Swinburne "Why God Allows Evil"  
J.L. Mackie "Evil and Omnipotence" (handout)

## MIDTERM: MONDAY OCT 22

Oct 24-31st **Is belief in God intellectually responsible?**  
W.K. Clifford "The Ethics of Belief"  
William James "The Will To Believe"

*Assignment: Position paper on the Ethics of belief in God- Nov 2nd*

Nov 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> **The Real World and our Knowledge of it**  
(COLLEGE CLOSED MON NOV 12) What is knowledge? What can we know about the world around us? How do we know it? What then?

Rene Descartes Meditations on first Philosophy  
John Locke The causal theory of perception  
George Berkeley Of the Principle of Human Knowledge

**Skepticism and Pragmatic responses to it**  
John Pollock Brain in a Vat  
G.E. Moore Proof of an External World

(NO CLASS WEEK OF NOV 19-23)

*Assignment: In class position paper on Skepticism and the External World- Nov 28*

Nov 30-Dec 7 **Comparing Eastern and Western conceptions of self...**  
Who/what are we, really? How do we continue to be the same person over time?  
What does that mean for the way we ought to live our lives?  
Descartes' Meditations p. 149-152; 173  
Excerpts from the Dhammapada, The Upanishads, Chuang Tzu (**Handouts**)

Dec 10-12 TBD  
Wrap up/Review/ Possible new topic

Dec 14th : Review Session

**FINAL: Monday Dec 17th**