DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Formulate your own definition of “religion.” Test your definition to see if it applies to various cultural phenomena we would normally call by that name.

2. Try to define “philosophy.”

3. What is philosophy of religion? Explain how approaches to philosophy of religion are influenced by different approaches to philosophy itself.

4. Discuss the importance of considering matters of consistency, coherence, plausibility, and truth with respect to religious beliefs.

5. Distinguish among the various academic studies of religion.

6. Is it possible to remain completely neutral in the study of religion? Is it desirable to remain neutral? What kind of objectivity should we seek in the investigation of religion (or any important subject)?

7. At the outset, what issues in religion would you identify for philosophical analysis and discussion? Prior to this class, have you ever read any material that subjects religious beliefs to rational scrutiny?

8. Try to state in your own words the basic position of classical theism. Discuss its relation to specific concrete religions.

9. Show how some major issues in philosophy of religion arise out of certain events and experiences in ordinary life.

10. Explore the objection that philosophical interest in religion misses the essence of religious faith. Do you think that religion or religious faith is subject in any way to rational investigation?