



SAMUEL ADEGBOYEGA UNIVERSITY
OGWA, EDO STATE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2018/2019 ACADEMIC SESSION

Course Code: RPR 811

Course Title: The Freewill/Determinism Debate

Units: 3

Semester: Second

Time: Wednesdays, 8 – 10am

Venue: PJABHM L2

Lecturer: Samson O. Ijaola.

E-mail: sijaola@sau.edu.ng

Office No: PJABMH, Room 3

A. Introduction

The Freewill/Determinism Debate has generated a lot of scholarly among philosophers and other disciplines. The contention is about taking sides about on human person be it product of evolution or creation has a freewill to make rational and moral choices or that his choices are determined for him by his biological make-up or exogenous natural or supernatural forces. The significance of the freewill and determinism debate is basically to have a clear perspective on the factors to be taken into consideration for reward be it praise or blame. This is very crucial for the dispensation of justice in the society. This course therefore will examine the works of Alvin Planting, Ninian Smart, J. L. Mackie and Antony Flew. There will be an attempt to solve some of the problems. There will also be a close examination of the relationship of religion and philosophy.

B. Objectives/Goals

At the end of this course student s should be able to:

1. Describe the concepts of freewill and determinism.
2. Explain the freewill and determinism debate.
3. Discuss the major argument applicable to the debate
4. Examine various scholarly perspectives on the side of freewill and determinism as philosophical thought.

C. Course Outline

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Definitions and Conceptual Discourse on is Free Will.
2	Freewill and the Moral Question.
3	Definitions and Conceptual Discourse on Determinism.
4	Determinism and Moral Choice.
5	Anthony Flew's Compatibilism and Libertarianism.
6	Alvin Platinga and Freewill Defence.
7	Ninian Smart perspective on Compatibilism
8	J.L. Markie and the Compatibilism Theory.
9	Consequent Argument
10	Compatibilism, Sourcehood, and Manipulation Argument.
11	Modern Science in Determinism and Freewill Debate.
12	Revision

D. TUTORIALS

Tutorial classes will be organized as the need arises.

E. STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME/METHOD OF GRADING

Attendance.....	5%
Article Reviews.....	3%
Chapters in Book Reviews.....	3%
Term Paper.....	9%
Test.....	10%
Examination.....	70%

F. Office Hour: 12-3 pm Wednesdays

G. GROUND RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1) University guidelines on attendance requirements will be strictly observed in this course. Thus, attendance as well as participation is a prerequisite and counts for 10 % of students' overall grade.
- 2) No student will be allowed into the lecture hall 5 minutes after lecture must have commenced.
- 3) Improper and indecent dressing will not be allowed in the lecture hall

4) Students are expected to be well disciplined and they should exhibit this through their punctuality at lectures and prompt attendance to class assignments.

H. ALIGNMENT WITH SAU VISION/MISSION/CORE VALUES/GOALS

Samuel Adegboyega University has the vision of becoming a world class university. For this to happen, business administration department must be the flagship.

K. Reading Texts

Freewill: An Introduction by Helen Bee, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2013

Theology in the Context of Science by John Polkinghorne, SPKC, London 2008

Rowe, W.L. (2004). *Philosophy of Religion: An Introduction*. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing.

Faith and Reason by Richard Swinburne, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1981