God and evil

Advanced BA course
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If an omnipotent and infinitely good being governed the universe, then there wouldn't be suffering. There is suffering. Therefore God does not exist.

The course explores philosophical responses to this simple but remarkably powerful proof of atheism. The problem of evil is the most important argument against rational belief in God, one that spawned a large and very exciting body of philosophical literature over recent decades.

Requirements: attendance (80% of classes), term paper (2000 words).

Weekly schedule:

1  Introduction

2  The irrationality of theism
   Mackie (1955): Evil and omnipotence. *Mind*

3  The free will theodicy

4  Soul-building

5  Sceptical theism

6  Arguments for and against theism: Beyond the problem of evil
   no reading

7  Animal suffering

8  “God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals”

9  The challenge of maltheism
References
