

Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Philosophy of Religion: Developing a Novel Version of the Argument from Evil

Matt Schuler

Philosophy

Hours required p/week:	3
Credits anticipated:	1

The principal objective of this URE is to offer research support for an ongoing project within the philosophy of religion. Specifically, it concerns the problem of evil. Quite some time ago, I developed a novel version of the Argument from Evil that appears not to succumb to the difficulties that typically plague both “logical” versions of the argument and “evidential” (or “probabilistic”) versions of the argument. However, I subsequently came to believe that this project requires non-trivial revision before publication is viable – but have not yet had time to revisit the project. As such, this research experience serves as an opportunity for me to return to this work with the aid of undergraduate research assistants, who will gain hands-on experience in the literature review component of philosophical research (and, in the course of this, valuable exposure to the vast existent literature on the problem of evil).

TEMPE

ONLINE

STUDENT

Research assistant’s duties:

Duties will consist primarily of conducting a literature review of recent developments in the literature on the Argument from Evil. The research assistant will discuss with their professor sources that the research assistant identifies as relevant; once a list of sources to be cited has been narrowed down, the research assistant will aid in the citation of these sources within a 30-40 page essay (the majority of which has already been written).

Required skills or qualifications:

The primary skill necessary to execute this research is the ability to conduct literature reviews in search of journal articles that contribute meaningfully to the project's current stage of completion (though, even here, training and guidance will be provided).

Skills student will acquire:

Students will acquire one of the most fundamental research skills within the field of philosophy: the ability to identify sources (within the existent literature on a narrow philosophical topic) that are relevant to a specific philosophical thesis. Students will also acquire the ability to correctly cite these sources within a philosophical text. In the course of doing so, students will also gain exposure to the literature on one of the most central debates in the philosophy of religion: the problem of evil.