Assignment Schedule #1

A1: Read RRB 79-83 on the ontological argument, and then in PR the introductions starting on p. 425 on religious language, 471 on miracles, and 581 on religious diversity.

For each of the topics, write at least a paragraph explaining what you take to be the core issue. Then rank the topics in the order of preference for which you would like to see them covered in our course, and explain ranking.

A2: Read RRB chapter 1. Respond to study questions #1 and 10.

A3: Read RRB chapter 4. Respond to study questions #1, 4 and 9.

A4: Read RRB chapter 8. Respond to study questions #6, 8, and 9.

A5: Read Pike 149-155 in PR

1. State the argument we have been using in class, and explain how Pike’s argument is related to that one.

2. Pike’s argument is messy as stated. Explain how he derives the conclusion from his premises. If you have the background to symbolize the argument do so, and use your symbolization to demonstrate validity.


1. State and explain the difference between Plantinga’s (52) and (52’). How is the latter supposed to help with the problem of freedom and foreknowledge?

2. On Plantinga’s solution, what is the status of the principle of the fixity of the past as it applies to god’s beliefs? Do you find his treatment of this principle plausible? Explain


1. Explain Pike’s point from the second paragraph of section II on p. 213. Supposing he is right, how does this undercut Plantinga’s argument?

2. What principle does Pike substitute for the one rejected? Supposing he is right, how does this affect the argument? Do you find the alternate proposal plausible? If not, what sort of principle should be adopted?