**ARRUPE COLLEGE**

Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities

**Masters in Philosophy**

**PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION MPA 306**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**THREE (3) HOURS**

**ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS ONLY. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

1. (a) Explain the different ways of knowing God by faith and by reason. (In your examination of faith be sure to explain the nature and differences between natural and supernatural faith and in your analysis of reason explain the nature of deductive and inductive reasoning and give one argument for the existence of God illustrating deductive and another argument illustrating inductive reasoning.)

1. Analyze and compare the cosmological argument of W.L. Craig (Kalam) with Aquinas’ First Cause argument. Which of the two do you find more convincing? Give your reasons.
2. Analyze and compare the design argument of Paley with that of Swinburne’s regularity argument. Which of the two arguments do you find more convincing? Give your reasons.
3. (a) Explain the Neo-Darwinian theory of natural selection and (b) show how this theory can be used as an *objection* to a philosophical belief in God and (c) as a *confirmation* of a philosophical belief in God.
4. (a) Explain how God can be named from philosophical argument based on an analysis of common human experience. In your explanation be sure to deal with the three ways to naming God as well as the nature and distinction between un-mixed and mixed perfections. (b) Give two names of God as examples of how names for God are based on philosophical argument based on an analysis of common human experience.
5. (a) Explain J.L. Mackie’s argument calling into question the coherence of theism with respect to the problem of evil. (b) Explain how one could rationally justify a belief in God (as all-good and omnipotent) with the existence of evil. In your answer be sure to examine the nature and kinds of evil.

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**