God & Persons (PHL 320)
Dialogue questions
Summer 2007
Name ________________________________

Write short answers (two or three sentences) to each of the following, and hand the sheet in on the assigned day. Make two copies, and keep one for your use in classroom discussion. Due: Tuesday, July 10

Reading: Betty & Cordell, “The Anthropic Teleological Argument,” in Peterson et al.

1. What do Betty and Cordell mean by the “anthropic principle,” and what seems to be the sense of “anthropic” in the title of this principle?

2. What is the conclusion of the first part of their argument (before the consideration of three objections)?

3. What is the objection that there may be an infinite set of universes, and how do Betty and Cordell respond to this objection?

4. Give a summary statement of the second argument (or second stage of one argument) for the existence of God, the “biochemical argument.”

5. Do you think Betty and Cordell’s argument (or, if you regard the first and second as two different arguments, arguments) is weak or strong and why?