Choose one of these options.

1. On rational arguments for God’s existence. (1) Which argument or arguments do you regard as the strongest? Why? (2) Do you think the argument you chose is sufficiently strong to support the existence of God? Defend your answer. (3) What is your position on the value of the very enterprise of searching for and constructing rational arguments for the existence of God? Do you think that other approaches are more appropriate for such an issue? Defend your position.

2. Do you agree with Richard Dawkins’ claim that Darwin’s theory completely undermines the design argument for the existence of God? Some issues you might discuss: the ability of chance to explain the diversity and complexity of living things; whether a design argument can be applied to realms of reality other than the realm of living things; whether design is of value in evoking religious experience.

3. John Polkinghorne, in commenting on Norma Emerton’s review of the design argument for God, argues that there is still some value in the classical design arguments. “People are struck by the rational beauty of the universe and by its delicately balanced fruitful history in a way which suggests to them that there is some intelligence behind it all. There seems more to tell than the scientific story alone can articulate” (98). Explain what Polkinghorne seems to mean, or what meaning one might give, to these statements. Do you agree with him? Defend your position.

Due date: Thursday, July 12

Two to three pages & no more than three pages; 1 inch margins; normal font (12 pt. or larger); double space; no cover page; place your name, date, and the name of the course in upper left or right corner of the first page; header on pages other than the first with your name and page number; use the MLA parenthetical style for references (see the course web site for examples).