

Religion and Society, Winter 2010
Critical Reasoning Section

Critical Review Essay

Due: 9 March

Length: At least 5 pages

In your critical review essay, your task, in general terms, is to take a position on whichever book – Dawkins' *The God Delusion*, Harris' *The End of Faith*, or Hitchens' *God Is Not Great* – that you read this quarter, and support that position with good reasoning and evidence. Specifically, you should (1) take a position that concerns either the book's *thesis* or its *purpose*, (2) evaluate how well the author *supported* that thesis or *furthered* that purpose, and (3) *focus on one particular line of thought* in the book by which the author intends to support his thesis or further his purpose.

In addition to drawing upon your reading of the book itself, you will need to incorporate at least **one additional written source** that expresses a view critical of the book. You should expect to incorporate and evaluate one line of criticism of the book as part of your overall evaluation of the book's thesis or purpose.